



CBHE

Leon pulls name-change proposal from CBHE agenda

By GINNY DUMOND
MANAGING EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Any hopes Missouri Southern had of aspiring to university status were quashed Wednesday afternoon at a meeting of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

College President Julio Leon announced in the Presidents Council meeting prior to the CBHE meeting that the proposal would not be presented for a vote. He had learned that the CBHE staff was not ready to recommend a change in status for Southern from college to university.

Leon did address the CBHE in reference to the agenda item.

"Since it is the conclusion of the staff that Missouri Southern State University would be too encompassing, it is our feeling that it is best for us to withdraw the

proposal," he said.

He went on to say that the College thinks CBHE approval would be necessary for the legislature to pass name change legislation.

Controversy within the higher education community appears to stem from the use of the words "Missouri Southern." Leon addressed this issue at length during the meeting and pointed indirectly at a few Missouri schools who may have offered up the largest opposition.

"According to the [CBHE] staff, the words 'Missouri Southern' imply more than is warranted for its geographic area," he said. "This idea is that Missouri Southern would imply that we have a greater jurisdiction than we do."

"It may affect the egos of the schools which carry the word 'south'."

Regarding larger universities in

Missouri who may have opposed the name change, Leon likened the CBHE to a stable stifling the efforts of some smaller schools.

"What we have here is one of the little horses trying to get out of the barn," he said. "That is the case, those are the politics, and we have to live with that."

Leon also made reference to the guidelines the CBHE has set for a change to university status.

"We followed the guidelines," he said. "We are, according to the data, where others are."

Though he says he knew the name would be controversial, Leon offered up a justification for requesting "Missouri Southern" remain in the name of the institution.

"When we visited with faculty, alumni, and students, the attachment was so

strong we felt we had to submit that name," he said.

He said 95 percent of faculty and alumni surveyed did not want to give up the name Missouri Southern.

"That's significant enough for even a politician," he said.

Leon then addressed the perception that an upgrade in status would adversely affect Southwest Missouri State University or Central Missouri State University.

"We get 1 percent of our students from Springfield; they don't know us in Springfield," he said. "And CMSU is even farther away."

"We thought other institutions would be more secure than to be concerned with a little horse in the barn."

Leon said after the meeting that he believes Southern may have to choose a

different name and try again in the future.

"We're just going to have to wait and see for a while and study our options," he said. "Southern is a heck of a college, and we'll just continue to work on the good things we're doing and the light will shine on us some day in the future."

Jane Wyman, a member of Southern's Board of Regents, was on hand for the CBHE meeting Wednesday. She said the name Missouri Southern may be more important than the distinction of university status.

"The big problem for me is that I couldn't support changing the name from Missouri Southern," she said. "We've had the name for 30 years, and I'm not prepared to change that."

"I think we can accomplish what we need to accomplish without the name university." □

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Smith accepts new role

By RHONDA CLARK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With details still needing to be worked out, Dr. Nancy Smith sits poised to assume duties as assistant dean of the school of education Jan. 1.

Smith will retain her current position as head of the teacher education program.

"I look at this job as a facilitator in education and hope to play a role in the other departments," she said.

The school of education encompasses the departments of teacher education, kinesiology, and psychology. Smith views each department as possessing unique qualities. With a new professional development school aligned between (a) Joplin schools and the teacher education program, the student research conducted in psychology, and the health promotion and wellness program in kinesiology, Smith views the departments within the school as doing different but important work.

"I already work with the other department heads and really enjoy them," she said.

This new position, created by College President Julio Leon, evolved from discussions between Smith, Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs; and Dr. Michael Horvath, dean of the school of education.

"The president realized it's a department that's growing very rapidly, so really we thought it was an opportunity to provide additional leadership," Bitterbaum said. "Nancy is a very bright and gifted individual and really knows the ins and outs of the teacher education program."

While Smith looks forward to the challenge of her new position, there is one aspect of her job she plans to keep.

"I do want to still teach," Smith said. "I love teaching and the interaction with students."

Smith, who received her bachelor's degree from Missouri Southern in 1969, believes it is important to stay in touch with the students and teaching enables this. Even with the added responsibility and dual titles, Smith will teach four hours in the spring semester.

As the school prepares for the visit in 2001 from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), Smith anticipates plenty of paperwork. Besides reports for accreditation, student portfolio information will set new standards and indicators.

"Our program's evaluated on the quality of these portfolios," she said. □

Valerie Butler, senior communications major, works at KXDG 97.9 FM, in Joplin. Butler is not the only Southern student employed as a local DJ. NOPPADOL PAOTHONG The Chart



Student LifeBeat

These special feature stories are designed specifically for you—the student. If you have story suggestions please call 625-9311.

Students send voices across airwaves

By ERIC GRUBER
STAFF WRITER

Some people hate the sound of their own voice on their answering machine. Others can barely choke down the sound of their voice on a home video.

For some Missouri Southern students, they have no choice but to have their voices broadcast over

the airwaves.

Some radio stations around the Joplin area have benefited from the services of Southern students. One such student is Valerie Butler, senior mass communications major, who is currently employed for Big Dog 97.9 radio as a DJ.

Butler got into radio by doing a commercial at a local country station for her parents' furniture store

in West Plains.

"They liked my voice and offered me a job," she said. "I've always actually wanted to work in radio."

When she started her sophomore year, she came to Southern, and with dedication, commuted to her job back home — a three-hour drive.

"I've been in radio for five years," Butler said. "I've driven all of the

way back just to do the show on Sundays."

Even though she enjoys her work, it hasn't always been a smooth, safe ride.

"I've been stalked several times, and I've had police escorts from the station," Butler said. "I've been on the phone before and it went out on

TURN TO STUDENTS, PAGE 2

COMMENCEMENT

Southern prepares for first December ceremony

By GINNY DUMOND
MANAGING EDITOR

Seniors participating in Missouri Southern's first December graduation will receive a commencement address from a Southern administrator who has a great deal of commencement experience.

"I have been to probably 35 commencements including my own, and I honestly can't remember really any points that have been made, which may be my failing," said Dr. Larry Martin, dean of arts and sciences.

While he said it is an honor to be chosen as speaker, Martin joked that "you never know how many

people they asked before you who turned it down."

Contrary to what Martin may think, College President Julio Leon said he was the only person considered for the task.

"We wanted for this first ceremony to have somebody who knows and understands what this College is all about," Leon said.

Leon said since Martin came to the College in 1965 as a faculty member, he has built a strong reputation.

"He is a very well-respected individual on this campus, and we think he will do an excellent job at graduation," Leon said.

Martin said the amount of work and effort required for a December

graduation required strong support from the student body.

"From the food to ushers to speakers to ordering of the caps and gowns, it takes a lot of work to do a full-blown commencement," he said.

The commencement will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 in Taylor Auditorium. □

What's Inside



Into Southern waters...

After taking classes at OCC, MSSC, and SMSU, Steve Hibner has returned to the Southern campus...page 6

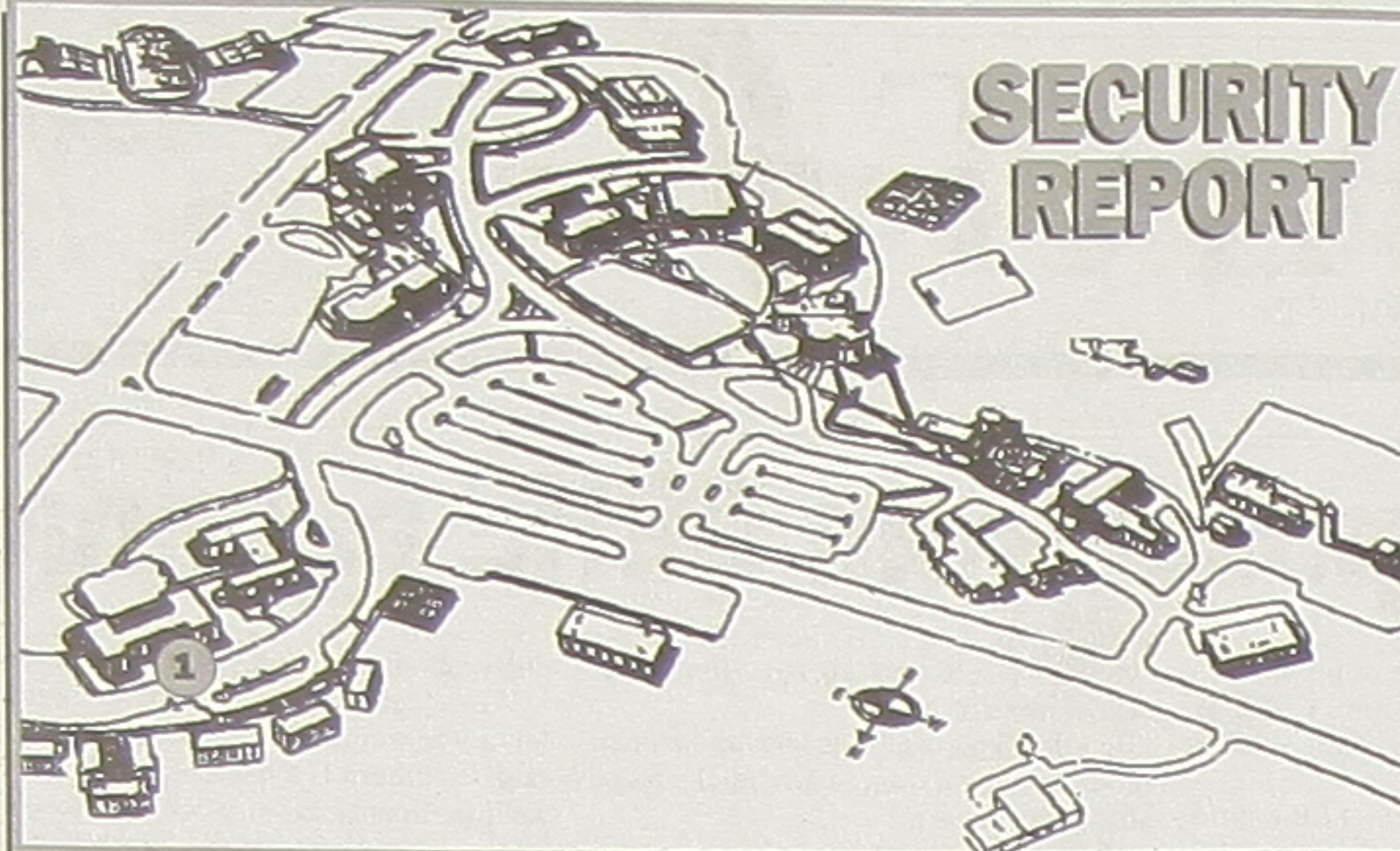
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SECURITY REPORT

1 12/03/98 Blaine Hall

8:05 p.m. Security was advised by an unidentified male student that he had been shot and hit by a pellet air gun in front of Blaine Hall. The reporting student refused to reveal his name. Security Officer Craig Richardson contacted Liliana Valencia, student assistant on duty. She advised that pellets had been left in the Blaine Hall office. Richardson contacted the occupied rooms on the front side of Blaine, but no one confessed to the shooting. Ron Mitchell, head resident, advised that he would tell his SAs to look into the matter further. The investigation will continue.

All proceeds of all advertising go to The Chart, the student newspaper of Missouri Southern State College.

Happy Holidays from The Chart staff

Holiday greetings from the editors and staff of The Chart. We wish you a happy, healthy, and safe winter break. Our next issue will be January 29, 1999. We look forward to delivering news to the Missouri Southern community with a new approach in the new year.

Nick Parker	Andy Searcy
Ginny Dumond	Erin Sellers
Jeff Billington	Elizabeth Schurman
Susie Frisbie	Scott Meeker
Jeff Wells	Matt Madura
Brin Cavan	Sarah Kyle
Andre L. Smith	Cassie Hombs
Rhonda Clark	Michelle Conty-Prettyman
Marla Hinkle	Heather Farren
Noppadol Paothong	Eric Gruber
Andrea Wilkinson	JoBeth Harris
John Smaha	Joe Eckoff
Brian Wirth	Dan Gustafson
Jana Blakenship	and Dr. Chad Stebbins

Moments to remember

By CALE RITTER
EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT

ANSBACH, Germany — When a person looks back on his or her life, there are always milestones that will never be forgotten. For example, experiencing your first kiss, getting your driver's license, graduating from high school, moving out, and the list goes on. The visual images that appear in your mind will be there permanently. Imaging placing an entire ocean between yourself and the country you call home. Stay there for six months and consider all of the memories that you will have.

Although it was an enormous step, I truly can't think of one reason why I wouldn't do the whole thing again. Of course there are a few changes I would have made, but that's life and we always look back that way. I can't wait to be a part in helping the next student come here and have a better trip. That won't be difficult with the people here being as genial as they are.

One of the pluses of coming here is to see the beautiful architecture. As you are already aware, seeing a photo in a magazine or book of a church nearly a millennium in age is beautiful. In reality, the sight leaves you in such awe that you are left without words to describe what is before you.

The sights are great, but you can't see them everyday. The one thing you do experience everyday, whether it be great or small, is cultural differences. From my experiences with the German culture, I found many similarities. This is because it is a very westernized (some call it Americanized) society. On the other side, you find the differences. This is what you notice and remember most. Sometimes it

shocks you, but no matter what, there is a great impact.

For me, friends may be the most appealing. I had the opportunity to go somewhere in a state of near blindness. I knew not one single person. I had no contact person. This allowed me to meet some of the most interesting people and make some long-lasting friendships.

If it weren't for friends, this would all be unbearable. A local journalist here asked me if I thought any of my friendships here would last after I return home. I replied that I sincerely hoped so. I have some commitments from them of future engagements. I can't wait because these are some of the best people I have ever met. This is only one group of people in one small town. I am sure this could happen anywhere.

While making these friendships, I could see them in a working atmosphere at school as well as in social situations. I've found that normally the students in the German university system are very intelligent because of the elimination of the lesser intelligent students. Because going to university is free, the tests must be very difficult to weed out many students.

I could talk all day long about my experiences, but I can only encourage you to make some of your own. Choose any culture, advanced like Germany or a more primitive one instead. A large city or school would be nice, but if you went to a smaller one every person would know who you are (like with my experience). Whatever you may choose, get out and do it now. No matter what the expense, the rewards will outnumber it in the long run by more than you will ever imagine.



Ansbach Adventures

Cale Ritter, a senior communications major, is spending the semester at Fachhochschule Ansbach in Germany. Every week, he provides an update of his experiences.

STUDENTS: Area radio stations feature student voices

From Page 1

the air."

Sam Cook, sophomore speech and theatre education major, enjoys music the most when it comes to his job as D.J. for KOBC 90.7.

"I'm really into Christian music," he said.

"I want to be a teacher, and if I could be in music I'd love to. If this leads to something else, I'll certainly take it."

Cook, who started in August, D.J.s on Saturdays and Sundays. He said he received his job because KOBC knew who he was and simply asked him if he wanted the job.

"I love my job, that's what I do," Cook said. "I love Christian music. It's the only music to work for."

For Tori Vicsik, senior vocal music major, being a D.J. helps gain a new appreciation for music as well as assisting in understanding her classes better. She works as a D.J. for the



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

Valerie Butler takes a break during work at KXDG 99.7 FM.

Southern classical music station, KXMS Fine Arts International.

"I learn something new about a piece of music every time I work," Vicsik said. "Being a music major music has really helped me in my classes."

She said up until now, she didn't really see herself as being involved with this form of communication.

"I didn't until I got the job, but now I love it," Vicsik said.

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INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Professors connect with colleagues

By MARLA HINKLE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

International contacts continue to flourish as three communications instructors ventured to Europe over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, associate professor of communications and assistant director of international studies; Dr. Maryann Weber, associate professor of French; and Dr. Sabine Cramer, assistant professor of German, were accompanied by Richard Massa, director of the Institute of International Studies. The four left Nov. 21 and returned Dec. 1.

The trip was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Stebbins was in charge of an international journalism project, while Weber was project director and Cramer served as an interpreter in Austria, Germany, and France.

Massa primarily worked on exchanges with the University of Savoie in Chambéry, France, and the University of Orleans, France.

The four met with Dr. Thomas A. Bauer, director of communications at the University of Vienna, on Nov. 23. Bauer will teach a class involving the writing of articles and cre-

ation of photographic essays for a June 2000 edition of *International Crossroads*.

"I brought copies of the *International Crossroads* everywhere we went, and the response we got was very favorable," Stebbins said.

He said Missouri Southern agreed to sponsor a conference on multicultural journalism in June 2000. The two-week conference will be held on the Southern campus specifically for University of Vienna students, but will be open to students throughout the world. The conference will also be used as a launching for the proposed World Press Center. Also, a teleconferencing network will be developed to link Southern with the University of Vienna for the purpose of sharing specific classes.

"There are 90,000 students enrolled at the University of Vienna, and they have 6,200 communications majors," Stebbins said. "Their communications department is larger than the student body of Missouri Southern."

Stebbins and Cramer traveled to Ansbach, Germany, Nov. 24, where they visited with Southern student Cale Ritter, who is spending the semester there. They also discussed future projects with administrators at the Fachhochschule.

Stebbins and Cramer met with Dr. Manfred Kammer of the

media planning department at the University of Siegen in Germany on Nov. 25. Stebbins and Cramer then traveled to Trier, Germany, for a Nov. 26 meeting with Professor Hans-Jurgen Bucher, Christof Barth, a doctoral student who teaches in the media studies department, and Mike Raska, a Southern student enrolled at the University of Trier.

"The fact that Southern has a campus newspaper, magazine, television station, and radio station was most impressive to Bucher," Stebbins said. "He had researched our communications department Web site pretty extensively and had talked at great length with Mike."

Raska will recruit fellow students at Trier to write articles for the next edition of *International Crossroads* as well as write several himself.

Stebbins and Cramer went on to France for a Nov. 30 meeting in Lille with Marc Capelle, international director of the Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme (ESJ). Stebbins said Capelle would like to see a three-way partnership with Laval University in Quebec and a university in the United States, possibly Southern.

ESJ and Laval already have a cooperative program designed for European and North American journalists who want to improve their knowledge of international affairs. □

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

College begins two new majors

By MARLA HINKLE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

In keeping with the tradition of Missouri Southern's international mission, two new majors in French and German have been added to the curriculum.

"It is absolutely imperative to have French and German taught to our students," said Richard Massa, head of the communications department and director of international studies. "Even if the number of French and German classes being taught has declined, the need for the languages in international affairs and business has not. The student who has had French or German classes has immense opportunities in other parts of the world."

Dr. J.R. Moorman, assistant communications department head, said the addition of the majors is a natural development, not only for the interest of the student but for international business as well.

"Many colleges do not offer a variety of foreign languages as a major, and we are fulfilling the international need," he said. "We have taken over the task of offering people in the community access to foreign languages. We would like to see people grow in order for us to offer even more majors in foreign languages such as Chinese."

Southern's French and German instructors are extremely pleased and excited about the addition of their respective languages as majors.

"The addition of these majors helps all programs grow and gives students the opportunity to study in other countries in an immersion program abroad," said Dr. Maryann Weber, associate professor of French.

Dr. Sabine Cramer, assistant professor of German, was pleased to discover a number of people in her community who could benefit from the new major.

"I recently discovered that a large number of people in my community are German, so they could benefit from the new major," Cramer said.

"Both German and French are in great demand for students, and our international mission is vital to our students," Weber said. □

INTERNATIONAL MISSION



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

Lilliana Abarca, director of the cooperation and international relation office at the Costa Rica Institute of Technology, talks with Dr. Wayne Adams, assistant professor of biology.

Abarca stresses global understanding

College signs cooperation agreement with director of Costa Rican school

By NICK PARKER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Extending its international mission one step further, Missouri Southern signed an agreement of cooperation with another international university this week.

College President Julio Leon signed the agreement with Lilliana Abarca, director of the cooperation and international relation office at the Costa Rica Institute of Technology (ITCR) in Cartago, Costa Rica.

The agreement was also signed by by ITCR Rector Alejandro Cruz Molina.

Abarca said the agreement called for both institutions to mobilize activities to facilitate the sharing of information. She said exchange programs for instructors and students are also expected in the future.

Stressing a world-wide need for students and instructors to globalize their thinking, Abarca said these agreements between colleges are important.

"We don't live in countries," she said.

"We live in a world that is globalized, so we have to learn to understand each other. We have to be aware of what is going on. The only way to make the world more peaceful is to under-

stand each other, to understand the other cultures of the world."

Dr. Wayne Adams, associate professor of biology, said while the process of globalizing the environmental health program began a few years ago, a recent grant from the U.S. Department of Education helped get the wheels rolling on the project.

"This agreement will let our students go there and take classes or do internships," he said. "Also, their students will be able to come here. It's really a partnership; some might say it's like having a faculty member down there."

The biology department plans to use the agreement to strengthen its environmental health program.

"Just think about it, health is not just a local thing," Adams said. "With food and other things crossing so many international boundaries, this [global] perspective is absolutely essential."

One of the programs the two institutions will specifically work with is a program looking at the philosophy of sustained development.

Abarca defined sustained development as an ecological philosophy of life where people attempt to use all resources wisely in an effort to maintain them.

Adams said the sustained development philosophy is an important one for people to learn and understand.

"Any thinking person can realize that sustaining the environment is important," he said. "We must do it to sustain our very existence." □

PHYSICAL PLANT

Southern loses devoted friend, veteran employee Ebsch

By ERIN SELLERS
STAFF WRITER

A great loss occurred for Missouri Southern over the Thanksgiving break.

Michael Ebsch, supervisor of the mechanical maintenance department, died at 11:22 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25 at St. John's Regional Medical Center after undergoing open-heart surgery. He was 40.

Ebsch joined the mechanical maintenance department in 1980 and was promoted to supervisor four years ago.

"If a measure of a person's worth and value in life is determined by the esteem in which he is held by family, friends, and coworkers, then Michael Ebsch had a very successful life indeed," said Bill Boyer, chief of security.

"He was a valued employee of the College and a friend to many people," said Bob Beeler, director of the physical plant and longtime friend of Ebsch.

The physical plant has set up a memorial fund in Ebsch's honor.

"People are being very generous to donate to the fund," Beeler said.

The physical plant also plans to plant a tree in Ebsch's memory. The tree will be located across the street from Hearnes Hall, next to a memorial tree for Ebsch's predecessor, Gary Evans. An engraved plaque will rest in front of the tree.

"We've started doing that for special people," Beeler said.

Beeler, who attended the private memorial services for

Ebsch, said Ebsch's wife of 18 years, Nora, is doing "as well as can be expected."

One of the things foremost in the minds of co-workers is Ebsch's devotion to Southern. Ebsch, under the direction of Beeler, was in charge of the upkeep of the College's buildings and determining the needs of future expansions.

"Even though Michael worked in a pressure-cooker situation with so many activities going on simultaneously, he always was a very friendly and gentle person," Boyer said.

Survivors include Ebsch's parents, Alan and Patricia Ebsch, Yuma, Ariz; three brothers, James Ebsch, Yuma, Gary Ebsch, Dayton, Ohio, and Alan Ebsch, Ferndale, Wash; a sister, Teresa Caskey, Yuma; and his maternal grandparents, John and Clovis Sellers, Prescott, Ariz.

"He will be missed," Beeler said. □

SOUTHERN NEWS BRIEFS

Leon chosen as chair for national committee

College President Julio Leon has been named chair-elect of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). He was installed at the association's annual meeting in San Francisco, Calif., on Nov. 24.

AASCU is a Washington-based higher education association of more than 425 public four-year colleges and universities across the United States and U.S. territories. The institutions enroll more than three million students, which is one-half of all students enrolled in public universities in the United States. They award 37 percent of all bachelor's degrees, 28 percent of all master's degrees, and 8 percent of all doctorates granted in the country.

Leon served on the board of directors of the AASCU from 1991 to 1994 and is currently the chair of the professional development committee. He also has served on the committee on undergraduate education and the committee on Education for Careers. □

Initial class of cooperative program to have ceremony

The third graduating class of the cooperative distance learning program between Missouri Southern and the University of Missouri-Kansas City nursing program will be recognized during a ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday in Webster Hall auditorium. Eleven students will receive their master's degree in nursing and two will earn post-master's recognition in the ceremony that is open to the public. The ceremony will be held via a telecommunications link from Kansas City to Southern's campus.

The graduates are Lee Rodriguez, Susan Pumphrey, Michael Gishwiller, Loana Evans, Michael Forbes, Nancy Willis-Smith, Terre Costley, Robert Muller, Melanie Short, Diana Hess, Debra Johnson, Ashley Kubik, and Ida Junge. □

Psychology students receive grants for projects

Missouri Southern's student research grant committee recently awarded 14 research grants to students for the fall 1998 and spring 1999 semesters. The grants range in amounts from \$126 to \$750. A committee of faculty members selects recipients, and students must have faculty sponsors.

Among the recipients, Rebecca Presley received a grant to fund research into "The Effect of Olfactory Sensitivity on Déjà vu Experiences." The topic includes administering a smell identification test and déjà vu assessment.

Christy Doubledee received two grants.

One will help with the cost of traveling to Sweden for a study dealing with attitudes of social workers toward welfare recipients, and the second is to pay travel costs to Emporia, Kan., for a presentation on the attitudes of grocery store clerks toward different customers. Lisa Bandy will also travel to Emporia and present her study on the effects of color on memory.

Sandy Fisk will present a paper in Emporia titled "Delay of Gratification and the Use of Distraction Techniques in Pre-School Children."

Jodi Lowe will be funded for researching hiring trends among area business managers, and Joy Mayfield will also travel to Emporia to present her study titled "Relationship between Religious Values and Attitudes toward Rehabilitation and Punishment." □

OUR EDITORIAL

Unsigned editorials on this page express the opinions of a majority of The Chart editors. Observations elsewhere on the page represent independent viewpoints of columnists, cartoonists, and readers.

All we need is land for grazing

It couldn't be any clearer who holds the reins of Missouri's higher education.

College President Julio Leon was in Jefferson City Wednesday asking the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) to lend its approval to the College's plan to adopt the name Missouri Southern State University.

However, the big horses of Missouri higher education had a different agenda. Institutions who previously have voiced opposition, such as Southwest Missouri State University and Central Missouri State, were able to rein in the CBHE to their side.

Leon removed the College's request from the agenda, then went on the offensive. Emphasizing our qualifications for university status and belittling the politics of the larger universities, he blasted the inflated egos of some of Missouri's larger institutions.

It is clear Southern meets the requirements the CBHE requires for a name/status change. But some institutions seem to fear the possibility of Southern offering graduate courses. News flash — we do offer graduate courses.

They are offered through cooperation with some of the very schools opposing the status change. And Leon has repeatedly said Southern will continue to offer graduate degrees in this manner.

It is obvious Southern should try again to claim the status that it deserves.

When the big horses decide we have grown enough to leave the stable, maybe then we will be able to roam free and feast in the sweet, green pastures of higher education. □

A job done well

This issue of *The Chart* marks the end of the collegiate journalism careers of Rick Rogers, Nick Parker, and Susie Frisbie. It is a sad occasion, but also a time to celebrate their many accomplishments at Missouri Southern.

Rick actually left *The Chart* more than a year ago, taking a full-time position with the now-defunct (no reflection on Rick) *Baxter Springs Citizen*. He made his mark on *The Chart* in his three years on staff by serving as sports editor, managing editor, and editor-in-chief. He was named the 1997 Missouri College Journalist of the Year.

Rick is the best page designer *The Chart* has ever seen, and his pagination skills have brought him many a full-time job offer. He currently resides as the sports editor of the *Carthage Press*. To Rick's credit, he continued to chip away at his degree requirements while working 50 hours a week. His graduation on Dec. 19 will be a testament to his perseverance and work ethic.

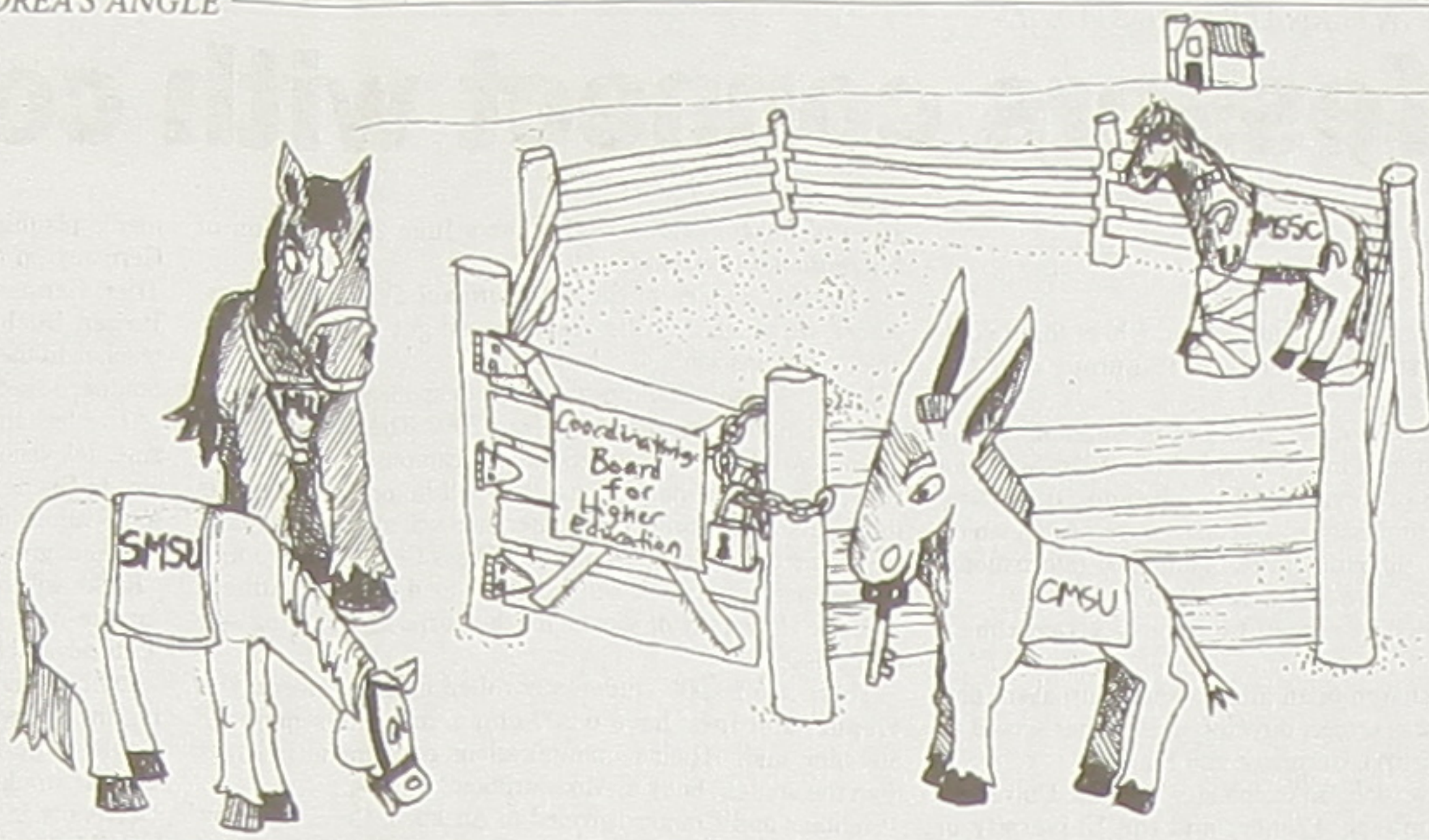
Nick is leaving *The Chart* for a full-time sports editor's position with the *Neosho Daily News*. He paid his dues in nine semesters at *The Chart*, serving as sports editor, associate editor, managing editor, and editor-in-chief this semester. He graduates in May (we hope) and gets married in July.

Nick holds the distinction of putting in more hours in *The Chart* office than anyone ever has. From trouble-shooting worn-out computers to teaching new editors the intricacies of QuarkXPress to spitting out one page after another, he did it all. He will be sorely missed.

Susie brought a much-needed breath of fresh air into *The Chart* office three semesters ago. Her creativity provided a shot in the arm on more than one occasion, and her knowledge of pop culture enlightened a staff that had spent too much time in Webster 333. Upon her graduation next week, Susie will head to Chicago in search of a career.

Rick, Nick, and Susie, you have our gratitude for a job done well. □

ANDREA'S ANGLE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Grandmas aren't always right about Southern

Grandmothers don't always have the right answers.

As she sat at the marble-tile kitchen table scribbling down a few notes, I will never forget that befuddled look on my grandmother's face when I spoke about my desire to attend Missouri Southern one unseasonably warm April day in St. Louis nearly five years ago.

"Missouri Southern?" my grandmother asked. "I thought the University of Missouri [at Columbia] is where you wanted to go and major in journalism."

"You know your cousin went to Missouri, and she majored in journalism, and by the way, where is Missouri Southern?"

Her words fell on deaf ears. I had already made my decision to attend this small, quiet four-year college in Joplin with one of the best non-daily college newspapers. Mizzou didn't matter anymore.

And that one decision has forever changed my life. OK, I know what you're thinking. Here he goes with that "how college was a life-changing experience for me" song and dance.

You would think in five-plus years in higher education, I could stray clear of using a tired old

cliche to describe the years spent pining at the editor's desk, flipping through lecture notes, or cleaning up slop in the residence halls.

But I can't help it. I know it's cheesy. I know it's soft and mushy, but it's how I feel, period.

The very second I said yes to Missouri Southern, I said yes to the best four-and-a-half years of my very short life.

I said yes to meeting a woman who literally knocked me off my feet the first time I met her, and continues to do so on a daily basis now as my wife.

I said yes to making friendships and acquaintances with some of the most interesting, and at times, unusual people I have ever come across.

I said yes to experiencing first-hand the enormous benefit of our international mission. The 26-day whirlwind journey fellow *Chart* member J.L. Griffin and I reported on through Hong Kong and China in the summer of 1997 is still hard to fathom to this day.

I said yes to being offered full-time positions in the professional field of journalism as sports editor of two community newspapers for the past 18 months while completing my degree.

Most of all, I said yes to three great years of working on *The Chart*. During that time (from the fall of 1994 to the spring of 1997), I can honestly say I gave every ounce of effort, every bit of passion in my heart to putting out the best college newspaper I thought possible.

I lived for *The Chart*. Every minute I wasn't in class — and even some minutes I should have been — I was stressing out over a missed assignment or staring at the endless stack of pages to be paginated. But the office was home, it was where I was most comfortable, and the staff was my family. I have worked with Lord knows how many people, and I'm afraid to just name a few, but Jake, Nick, Genie, Stephanie, T.R., John, Debbie, Mr. Richard Massa, and even good ol' Ryan all played a major role in who I am today.

Then there's Dr. Chad Stebbins, *The Chart* adviser, who is more than just another professor. He's a friend, someone I know I can talk to five, 10, or 20 years down the road and we will always share that special connection: our passion for *The Chart*.

And finally, I'll go back to where my journey down memory lane began, that April day in 1994. The day I said yes to Chad on my coming to Missouri Southern. Chad, my friend, you were the first to witness how that one word changed my life for the better. Thank you.

There is still one person I never said yes to, my grandmother.

Grams knows she was wrong in wanting me to attend that other Missouri school, but she'll never admit to it. Now, I can only pray she'll have the strength to travel to Missouri Southern for my graduation and see first-hand how wrong she really was. □

EDITOR'S COLUMN

It was a good run, but it's time to try a new show

A semester ago I was hoping my episode as editor-in-chief would not be as bad or short-lived as the abomination of a television show, *After M*A*S*H*.

My show wasn't too bad (just last month *The Chart* won a prestigious Best of Show competition at a national convention), but my agent found a better offer at a bigger, higher-paying network. As lucrative as the deal is, making the decision to leave *The Chart* was extremely difficult.

The newspaper, and Missouri Southern as a whole, have given me opportunities I never knew were possible. Transferring to Missouri Southern with a broadcasting emphasis in the fall of 1994, I was still under the impression college was a necessary evil in the path to success. I'm still not totally convinced otherwise, but I'm proud of the experience I have had here and of the many friends and acquaintances I have made. In this group I include fellow students as well as College faculty and staff.

Perhaps the biggest lessons given to me were those that came outside of the classroom. They came from discussions in the halls, offices, and the many lab experiences offered at Southern. Our College possesses an uncanny ability to throw its students into real-life situations with its lab programs.

Inside the communications department, opportunities were everywhere. Dr. Chad Stebbins and Mr. Ward Bryant shared their experience and knowledge openly. These two have become teachers, mentors, and friends over the past four-and-a-half years. Ward's greatest skill is his ability to relate to students and show us that we matter. His advice in and out of the classroom has aided many of my decisions.

From my first moments in *The Chart* office I was exposed to a group of people who worked to do nothing but produce a student paper worthy of professional admiration. Describing the role Chad plays in my life is pretty difficult. Telling him of my resignation was like knowing I was about to disappoint my father. While on staff, a few of us became a very tight-knit group, almost like a family. Chad was like our father offering guidance, support, and friendship. Luckily he rarely dealt any punishment.

Growing up, I always heard how the friends I would meet in college would most often become life-long friends. Learning to work (and sometimes live) with these people has been an experience of a lifetime. A special thank-you to Rick, Jake, Genie, Elizabeth, Debbie, Stephanie, Ryan, John, and T.R. You have all helped me develop into the journalist and person I am today. I also want to give a special shout-out to my future wife, Stephanie.

While on the staff my colleagues and I poured our entire beings into this newspaper. I spent most of my time in the office, often even when I should have been in class. For us, putting out our best was the only choice. Each and every mistake (and there were many) was taken personally.

Our little paper has won several state and national awards, and I am extremely proud of them. But still, the greatest feeling comes when I see people grabbing a copy of our issue and delving into the happenings of our college community.

I am nervous about entering the professional world, but I know the training I have received has made me ready for the transition.

Unlike *After M*A*S*H*, *The Chart* will go on for many, many seasons after I have left. Maybe someday I can come back for a guest appearance. □

YOUR LETTERS

The Chart welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. Submit letters to The Chart office on the third floor of Webster Hall, fax them to (417) 625-9742, or send via e-mail. Our e-mail address: Chart@mail.mssc.edu. Letters are due by noon Monday for publication in that week's edition.

Johnson family offers thank you to campus community

To the students, faculty, and friends,
The family of the late Jason Oscar Johnson wish to say "thank you" from the very depths of our hearts.

The past eight weeks have been very difficult, and we have some difficult times ahead of us. Through the pain of Jay's death, we still can see the grace of God.

The support and love we have received has been

quite overwhelming. It is that love and concern that has allowed us to continue our daily lives. It is that love and concern that has given us strength to still smile.

We are blessed to have had a son like Jay. He brought so much love to almost everyone he knew. So, from all of us, to all of you, we appreciate everything you have done: the plaque and picture at the school, the planting of the tree, Dr. Gubera's

heartwarming words at the service for Jay, and all of you who attended, sent cards, letters, and gifts. The scrapbook will go to our next generation: Jason's nieces and nephews.

God Bless You,
The Johnson family,
Oscar, Charley, Brian, and Darrin
Holly Ripper



SPJ — The Nation's Best Non-Daily Collegiate Newspaper (1995, 1996)
ACP National Pacemaker (1997) ACP Best of Show (1998)
ACP Pacemaker Finalist (1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997) MCMA — "Best in State" (1993-94, 1996-97, 1997-98)

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The Chart, the newspaper of Missouri Southern State College, is published weekly, except during holidays and examination periods, from August through May, by students in communications as a laboratory experience. Views expressed do not represent the opinions of the administration, faculty, or the student body.

STUDENT FEATURE

Elsten enjoys restoring vintage 'Bug'

By BRIN CAVAN
AUTOMOTIVE EDITOR

While looking for a truck to buy, a Missouri Southern student found a '65 Volkswagen Beetle with only 3,365 miles on its new engine instead.

"I wanted to fix up a car, and Bugs are easy to fix up," said Justin Elsten, freshman communications major. "I just bought the Bug, instead of a truck. I like the Bug better. There's so much more I can do to it."

With the new-stock, 1,600-cc engine, the Beetle was in pretty good shape when he purchased it, but Elsten still believes it needs improvement.

"It's a dual-barrel with a Weber carb on it," he said. "Weber makes a pretty nice carburetor, but this one is a single. I want to put doubles on it."

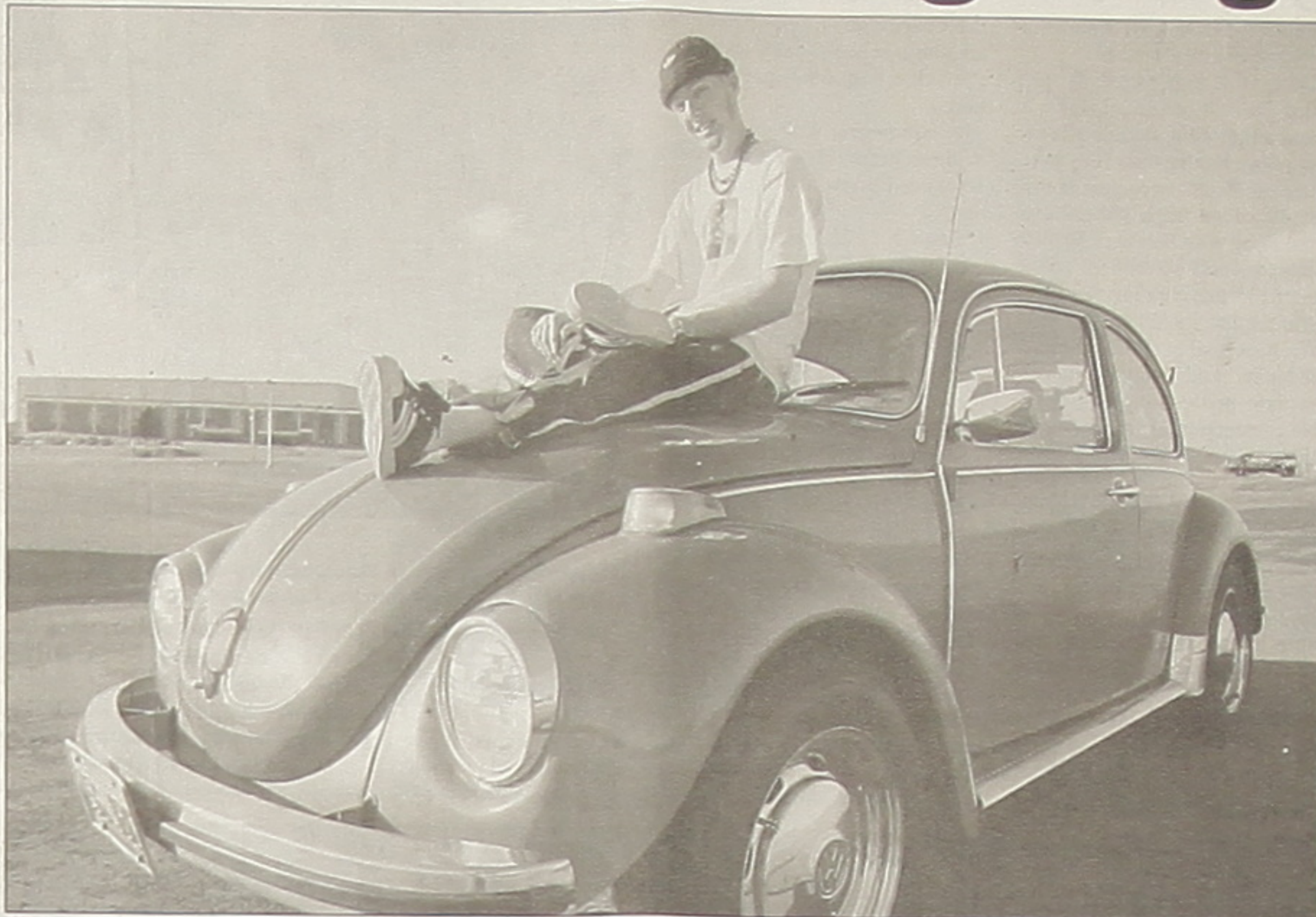
It came with quad exhausts and custom running boards, but Elsten has already added new wheels and chrome trim. His addition of a bike rack accommodates his BMX, which he rides on ramps, but not in serious competition.

When purchased, the interior had been redone less than three years ago and the orange paint was fairly new. Elsten calls the Bug "Fuzzy" because the orange color is so bright in the sun it makes his eyes fuzzy. His plans include changing the color, too.

"I want to strip it down and paint it a metallic midnight blue and tint the windows," he said. "I'm also going to lower it a little bit."

To lower it, he will take off the shocks and springs. With a kit, Elsten can bolt on spindles and lower it two and a half inches. He will change out the drum brakes to more reliable discs.

He has ordered four "15s" to go with his Pioneer CD player. He will remove the back seat and replace the JL Audio six-by-nine-inch speakers with the 15-inch ones when they arrive. Elsten will build a shelf for the new speakers, so they will sit up high.



Justin Elsten, freshman communications major, is "laid back" on his classic 1971 Volkswagen Beetle. When he purchased the bug, called Fuzzy, the 1600cc, dual barrel engine had only 3,365 miles on it.

"I'm going to have it bounce off the back glass, so it will be louder," he said.

Then he can play the CDs that match his bumper stickers. His favorite bands are advertised on his car — Living Sacrifice, P.O.D., No Innocent Victims, Bouncing Souls, and Klank. All except Bouncing Souls are Christian bands.

Elsten is the bass player in Ten Fold, a Christian band that has opened for Klank and Living Sacrifice at the Java House. They have performed on the Southern campus during the Homecoming festivities, and they played at the Carthage Powerhouse Saturday.

Before he bought his Bug, the previous

owners put time and money into the car, then barely drove it. For \$2,800, he bought a refurbished auto with less than 4,000 miles on the new engine.

Maybe this Bug reflects his beliefs and the name of his band, Ten Fold.

"You give, and God will bless you tenfold," Elsten said. □

CONSUMER CORNER

Frequent buyers may prefer lease

By MATT MADURA
STAFF WRITER

Purchasing a new vehicle can become a costly process. Local dealerships provide lease programs which make purchasing easier and keep payments down.

Purchasing a vehicle means, when the payments are complete, the vehicle becomes the property of the customer.

"Leasing is designed for people who trade-in every two to three years," said Wayne Smith, business development manager at R & S Chevrolet on 7th Street. "The chance people take in buying a vehicle is the risk of what that vehicle's resale will be worth in the future, or at the time of trade-in. Taking out a 36-month lease is less than a 60-month sales purchase. The lease is an alternative finance."

Leasing a vehicle is not buying a vehicle. Customers do have the power to buy at the end of a lease for the remaining amount of vehicle value. It is possible to get out of a lease if the lease is almost complete.

Before a vehicle is leased, the salesman runs a credit check.

"You must have credit to lease," said Gene Flanagan, new and used car and truck sales representative for Joplin Ford Lincoln Mercury.

When a vehicle is leased through GMAC (General Motors Acceptance Corporation), GMAC owns the vehicle. At the end of the lease, the customer has choices. They can give the vehicle back to GMAC, they can re-lease the same vehicle, or buy the vehicle.

For example, a leased \$30,000 vehicle with a 50-percent residual, the customer makes payments up to \$15,000 for 36 months. At the end of the lease, one can trade again or buy. These figures do not include tax and tags, insurance, or extra mileage.

There are different mileage packages that can be purchased. This is paid for up front. If the customer puts more mileage on the vehicle than what was agreed upon, the customer pays 15 to 25 cents a mile.

Flanagan said the first and last month's payments are used as a deposit.

"Lease programs are updated almost daily," said Paul Riffin, general sales manager of Continental Auto Mall on 32nd Street.

If a customer has a trade-in, the dealership makes bids on the vehicle, and purchases it from the customer. The customer has the choice of walking away with the money or applying it toward the lease.

Flanagan said all rebates count toward the leases as well. GMAC requires the customer to have full-coverage insurance on any vehicle being leased.

"We do have college graduate programs available for graduated students or students who will graduate in the next semester and are going into their field of study," Smith said. Leasing is most popular with trucks and high priced vehicles, according to Joplin Ford Lincoln Mercury.

"Ford Motor Company blazed the trail on leasing," said Kevin Hugo general manager of Joplin Ford Lincoln Mercury. "They have been the industry leader on leasing from the beginning. Ford Motor Company was five years ahead of any other car manufacturer." □

AUTO ANALYSIS

Will the new Beetle steal the show?

By BRIN CAVAN
AUTOMOTIVE EDITOR

The 1998 Beetle has the charisma of the original Bug, with a greater charm and style. Its curved good looks are harmonized with its 90s technology to give this Bug a very updated, ergonomic style and better handling and power than the earlier model ever possessed.

The interior is roomy without the too-close windshield, and unlike its predecessor, you can go 0-60 in less than 10 minutes. In fact, you can reach 60 mph in only 10 seconds.

Its fuel use is EPA rated at 23 miles per gallon in the city and 29 mpg on the highway.

But for even better fuel economy, the available turbodiesel model can be purchased.

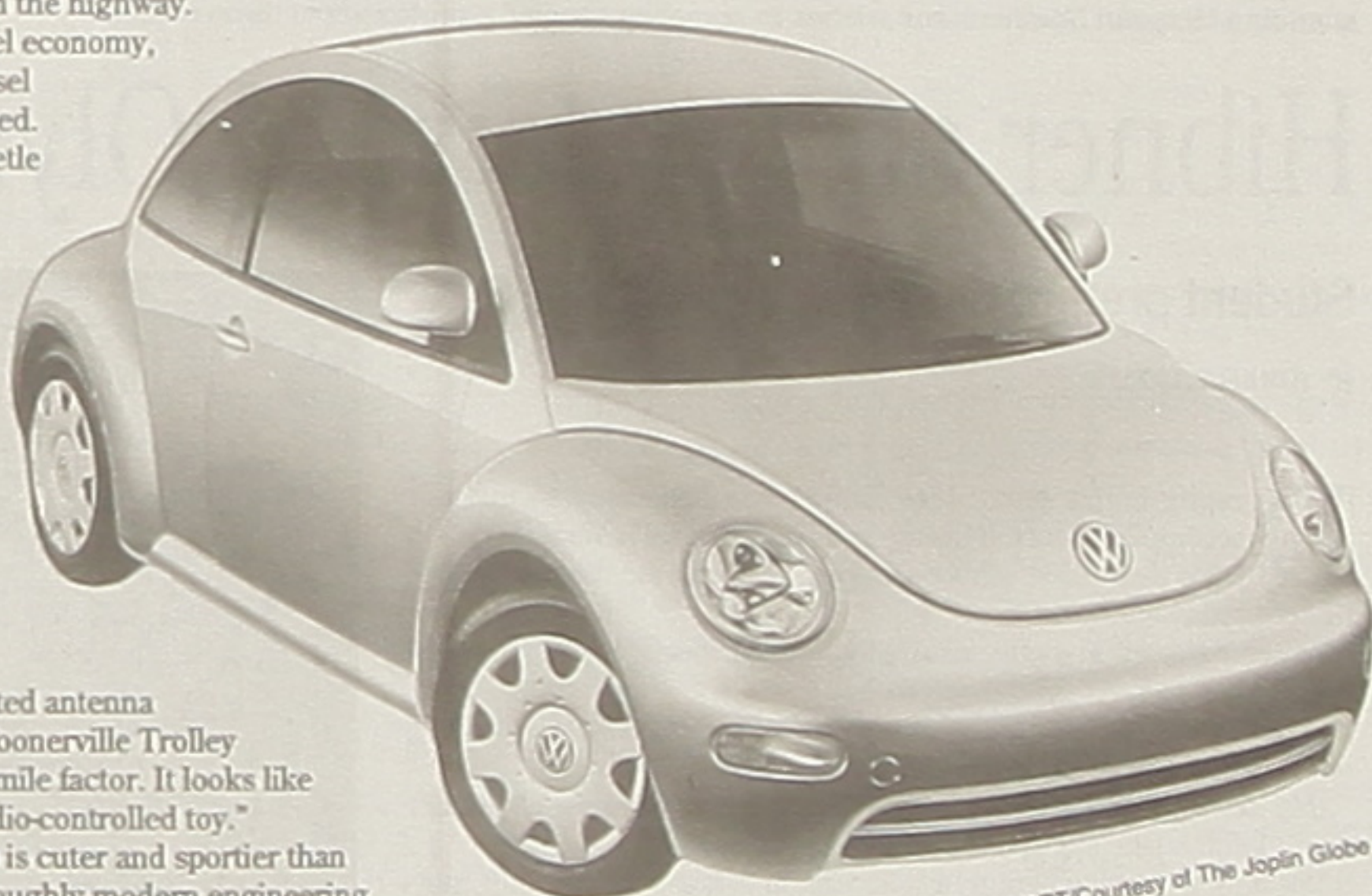
Even though the Beetle has great drivability, comfort, and performance, its greatest strength is still its unusual look.

In a new car review by Carey Russ, he said, "The new Beetle looks almost the same coming or going — and it's smiling either way."

"The centrally-mounted antenna gives it a whimsical, Toonerville Trolley look and adds to the smile factor. It looks like the world's biggest radio-controlled toy."

This new kid in town is cuter and sportier than the original, with thoroughly modern engineering.

Watch out old Bug, your new brother Beetle may even outdistance your 60s nostalgic appeal. □



SPECIAL TO THE CHART/Courtesy of The Joplin Globe

1998 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE SPECIFICATIONS

Base Price	\$15,200
Engine Type	Inline 4-cylinder, single overhead cam, 8 valves
Engine Size	2.0 liters, 121 cubic inches
Horsepower	115 @ 5200 rpm
Torque (lb-ft)	122 @ 2600 rpm
Transmission	5-speed manual
Wheelbase / Length	98.9 inches / 161.1 inches
Curb Weight	2712 lbs.
Pounds Per Horsepower	23.6
Fuel Capacity	14.5 gallons
Fuel Requirement	Unleaded regular, 87 octane
Tires	P205/55 HR16 Michelin Energy m+s
Suspension, front/rear	Independent MacPherson strut / Independent torsion beam axle

Under The Hood



By Brin Cavan
Automotive Editor

VW Days bring back memories

I find it fitting my last automotive column should be tied in with reminiscing about the "VW Days."

My first serious boyfriend drove a Volkswagen bug, and I still think of those times with nostalgic fondness.

Bugs also remind me of other interesting memories. I had a blue one with the right seat taken out to accommodate throwing a paper route. After I was side-swiped, removing one fender, the insurance company considered the 12-year-old a total. The company paid me \$200 more than my purchase price and let me keep the car. I put a \$35 junkyard fender on her and another 40,000 miles.

My all-time scariest memory was in a small town in east Texas. Returning from a visit to Louisiana, I was falling asleep at the wheel of the same beetle, when I rolled through a stop sign. I began to awaken when I saw the red lights behind me, but the next event made me fully alert.

As the state trooper walked up to my window, I was fishing for my wallet. When I raised up to get out my license, he had his gun to my ear. Upon his approach to a dilapidated VW bug, he had seen a "half-conscious" driver searching under the seat for something, and he was taking no chances. Now wide awake, I said, "See, it's only a wallet."

Were the VW days the "good ol' days?" I would say it was better described as the days of upheaval and major change.

Everyone had a cause, or two or three. We thought ideals and ideas were more important than the accumulation of things.

We stood firmly against trends we found repugnant. Living in the deep South, we could have been murdered for believing in Civil Rights. We believed some things were worth dying for, and many were killed for their stand.

We railed against the Vietnam War. While those who chose to fight and die should always be commended for their honorable stand, history has shown us this poorly-planned police action was an unproductive and ignoble waste of human life. We felt it was necessary to question bureaucratic motives when those motivations seemed unsound.

We believed we could change the world with a combination of love and brotherhood. While we made many mistakes, our hearts were in the right place.

And after the '60s were over, draft-dodgers went into politics, and Black Panthers became members of Congress. We traded in hippie attire for business suits, but I would like to think our ideals remained.

We are the ones who are the first to lend a helping hand, to volunteer, to reach out. If we can't change the world, we will do what we can in our corner.

Many of the youth today have the same mindset.

However, many more seem to have no qualms about checking their ideals and morals at the door, if it is productive to do so. They don't make a stand. And heaven forbid — they would never consider putting their life on the line for a cause. They spend more time considering which brand name to buy than they do deciding what is right and wrong in the world today.

To those of you who fit this bill — Get a life! Get a cause! Do what you can to change your part of the world today! Peace! □

Around Campus

Campus Calendar

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Jeff Billington at 625-9311.



■ **CAB Holiday Formal** will be at 9 p.m. today in the BSC Connor Ballroom. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

Today 11

Last Day of Classes

Monday 14

Finals-10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. M-W-F classes. 10 a.m. Tues-Thurs classes at 8 a.m.

10:45 a.m.—

Christmas Buffet, BSC 3rd floor, free to board students, \$5 for others.

Tuesday 15

Finals-8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tues-Thurs classes.

Wednesday 16

Finals-8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. M-W-F classes.

Thursday 17

Finals-9:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tues-Thurs classes.

Friday 18

Finals-9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. M-W-F classes.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Competition enhances language skills

By CASSIE HOMBS
STAFF WRITER

One special day comes around each year giving many Missouri Southern students and area high school students a reason to celebrate.

That is what many students were doing Dec. 4 when classes in Hearnes Hall were canceled due to the College hosting the 16th annual English Field Day competition.

Six hundred high school students, along with Southern English instructors and 40 student volunteers, filled the building to participate in English Field Day.

"We have the best students out here today," said George Greenlee, associate professor of English. "This competition gives them pride in their schools and pride in themselves."

Students competed in several different competitions exposing them to such areas of English as reading comprehension, vocabulary, and logic.

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. they competed as teams and individuals, vying for trophies and certificates.

Although no scholarships are awarded to winners, the competi-

tion looks good on résumés, Greenlee said.

Many students enjoy the benefits of English Field Day long after it is over.

"English Field Day not only gives the College good rapport with the area high schools, but it also gives the schools good exposure," he said.

By competing with each other, students get an idea of how they're stacking up against the competition.

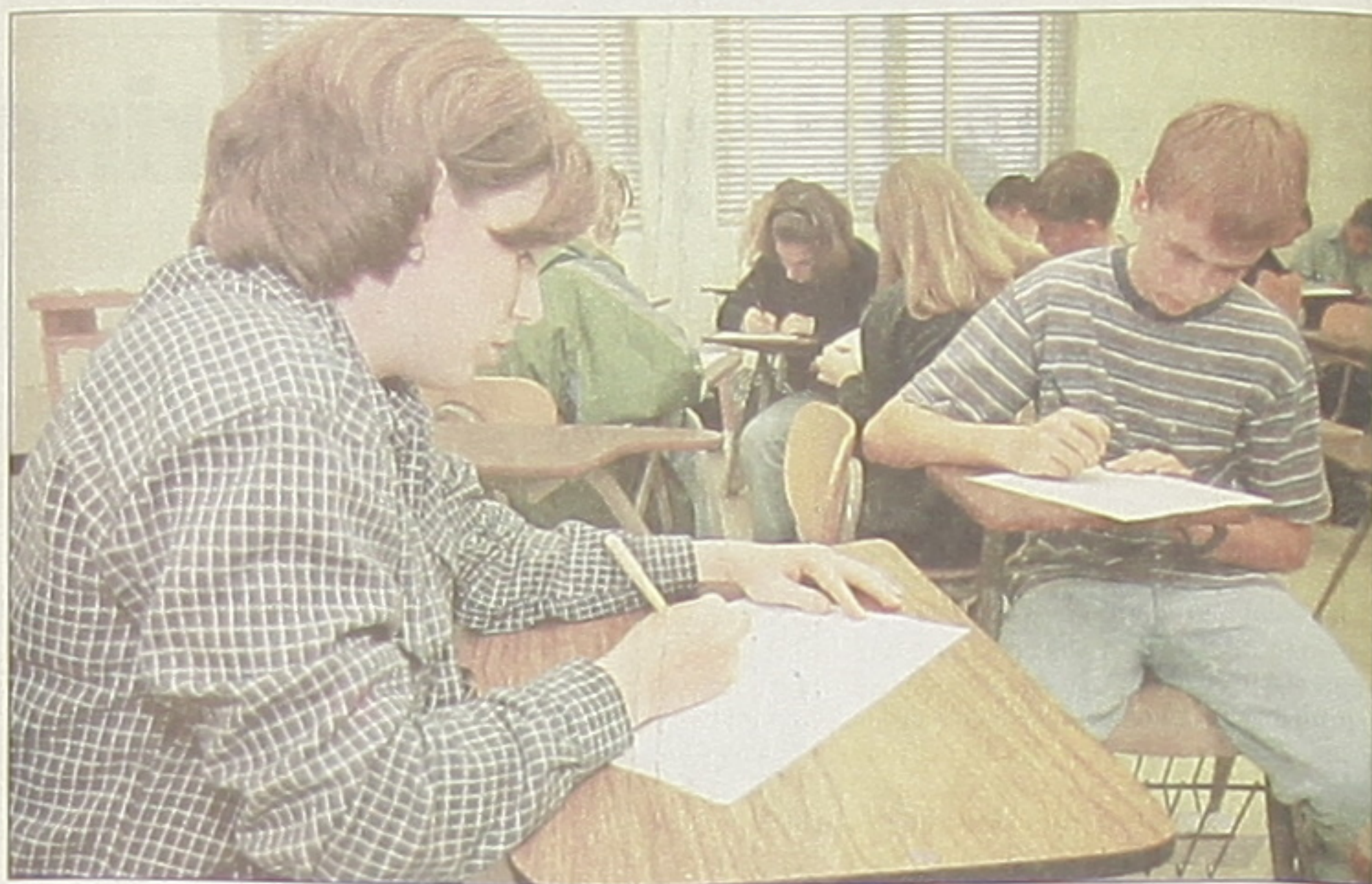
"English Field Day is very challenging," said Dina Boyt, a Neosho High School senior. "I wanted to see how our school would do this year."

Shonda Ireland, another senior from Neosho, was surprised at the difficulty of the various sessions.

"It's a lot harder this year," she said. "The dictionary competition was very tough. We really struggled to keep up with other teams."

Greenlee said the difficulty of the sessions does not matter as long as students are learning something in the process.

"There are a lot of benefits to English Field Day," he said. "The students get to compete in a light-hearted, informal way, and they get



Holly Lungren and Josh Major, both from Neosho High School, participate in the spelling bee competition last Friday while attending the 16th annual English Field Day.

to see how their peers are doing as well.

"In 16 years, we've never had a problem with any of the high school students. We've never had

any violence or caught anyone cheating. They are just good students."

English Field Day will continue with the support from College staff.

"We couldn't put this day together without Charline Lewis (English department secretary)," Greenlee said. "She's the engine that makes this whole machine run." □

STUDENT FEATURE



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

Steve Hibner was one of the top swimmers in the state of Texas from 1993-1995. He is currently hoping to start a swim club while attending Missouri Southern and wishes to someday become a professional swim coach.

Hibner strives toward Olympic glory

Student prefers Southern over SMSU, OCC

By BRIAN WIRTH
STAFF WRITER

Despite being deaf, Steve Hibner has had many significant accomplishments in his life and plans to have several more.

Born deaf made school somewhat difficult for the sophomore undeclared major.

"When I started in grade school, I was in all special education classes," Hibner said.

Upon arriving at high school, he began taking regular classes along with special education classes.

"My senior year in high school, I took all regular classes," Hibner said. "I didn't take any special education classes."

Not only was being deaf tough for him in school, but constant moving because of his father's job also made it difficult. Hibner's father has a job dealing with the railroad that required the family to move almost every two years.

"I have lived in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas," he said. "I consider Texas to be my home state. I still have friends in each one of those states."

When it came time to choose a college to attend, he selected the college his parents wanted for him.

"I wanted to go to the University of Texas and swim, but I decided to go to Ozark Christian College here in Joplin," he said.

The experience at OCC was not a good one. Hibner had many difficulties there.

"They didn't have a very good program for deaf students, and it made learning very difficult," he said.

After a year at OCC, Hibner came to Missouri Southern before transferring to Southwest Missouri State University for a year. He returned to Southern this fall.

"SMSU was so big it was hard get help there," he said. "I came back to Southern because they have the best program for people with disabilities of any college I went to."

Swimming has been a huge part of his life ever since he lived in Oklahoma.

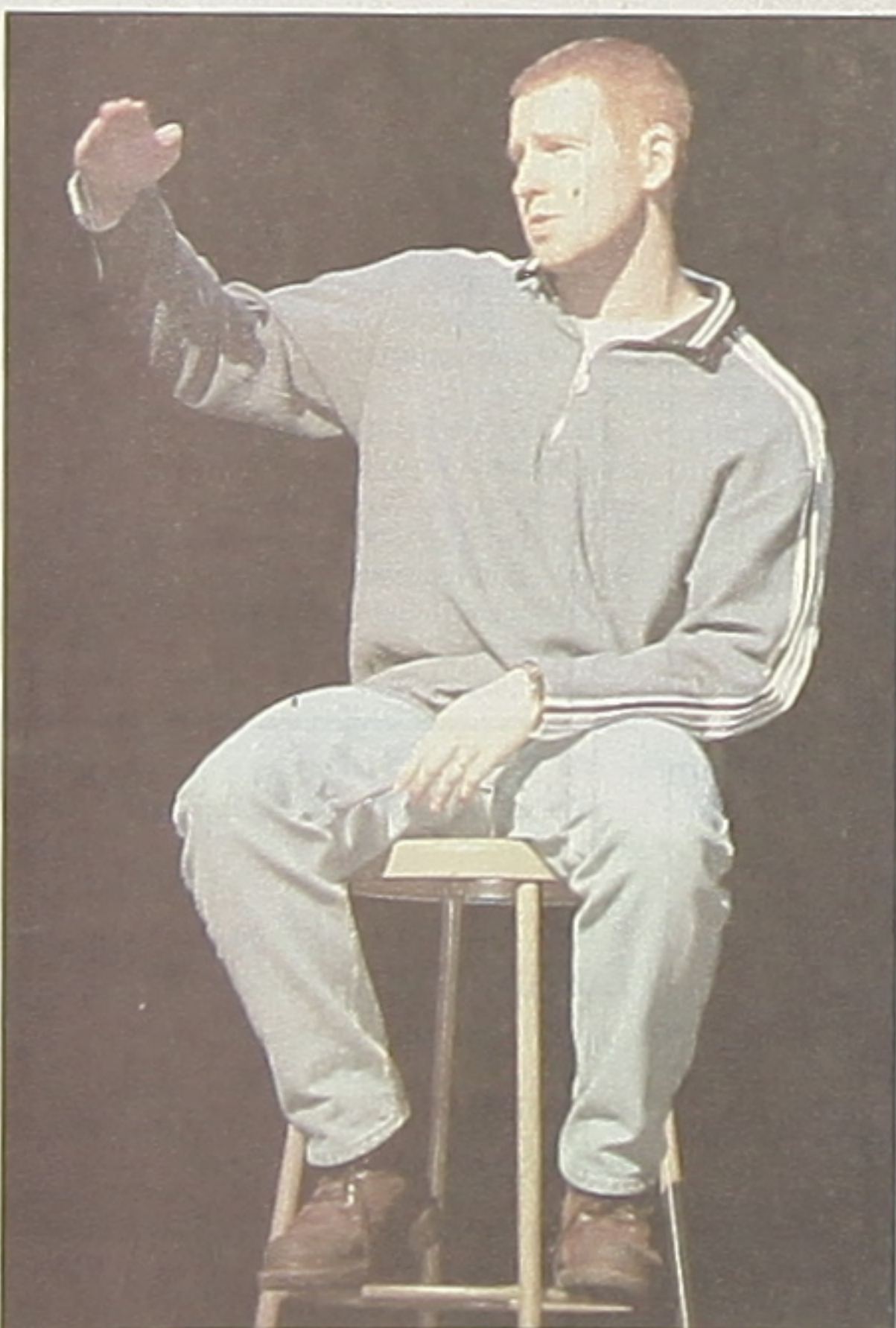
"I started swimming when I moved to Oklahoma, and after the first year, I made it to the championships," Hibner said.

His family then relocated to Texas, where his aquatic skills helped him become one of the top five swimmers in the state between 1993 and 1995.

"I don't mean to brag, but when it came to swimming, I was the man in southwest Texas," Hibner said.

He hopes to get a swim team started at Southern, but said it will take support from the students.

Hibner plans to become a swimming coach.



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

At Southern's annual Homecoming talent show, Steve Hibner performed the song "Peace and Love" in sign language.

"My dream is to go to the Olympics and swim, but if I can't do that, then I want to be a coach," he said.

Sarah, his wife of six months and a sophomore mathematics education major at Southern, has been his main way to keep on going. They met while Hibner was at OCC.

"If it wasn't for my wife, I wouldn't be here," he said. "She really gives me the help and support that I need to keep going. She is awesome." □

FORENSICS

Wins keep adding up for team

Tournaments continue through winter break

By JANA BLANKENSHIP
STAFF WRITER

Christmas break won't be much of a break for the speech and debate squad at Missouri Southern.

The squad is preparing for the upcoming Cornhusker Invitational at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln Jan. 9-10. More importantly, the squad is preparing for nationals, which begin in March.

"K-State is very competitive," said Curt Gilstrap, director of forensics. "The competition with them is good. It's an advantage for us to go to larger events."

The squad will attend four sets of national events in March and April.

"I think we'll have teams that will do well," Gilstrap said. "We have two teams that do very well. One of them is No. 1 in the state."

"In individual events, Robert Dempsey is outstanding. He's the No. 1 speaker in the state of Missouri. His events alone will stand out."

Tim Parrish, sophomore criminal justice major, is also preparing himself for the Cornhusker Invitational and nationals. One event he's been working on is rhetorical criticism. In this, Parrish said he takes an artifact of communication and describes it through a published communication theory. The theory he has chosen is the millennium meteor fireworks display.

"It's literally a meteor fireworks display on Jan. 1, 2000," he said. "They plan to fire nuclear missiles. It will be the largest fireworks display ever."

Parrish said he will try to demonstrate the impact it will have on society since it will take place in every major city.

"It's a lot of research," he said. "You have to sit down and write the speech. Then you have to practice with hand gestures and vocals. It's very rehearsed."

"Southern is now 12th in the nation. We're working on getting it all together and making an impact on the national scene."

The speech and debate squad attended events in Houston, Texas, Dec. 5-6. The results were as follows:

In individual events, Dempsey finished second in poetry and third in after-dinner speaking. He also finished fourth in oral interpretation and fifth in prose.

John Shadwick received fourth place in extemporaneous speaking, Steve Doubleddeed earned sixth in after-dinner speaking, Shellie Meador placed second in communication analysis, and Jason Harrington sixth in informative speaking. □

Events celebrate season

By ERIN SELLERS
STAFF WRITER

It's the season for carols, concerts, and Kris Kringle. From Handel's *Messiah* to jazz, Missouri Southern's music department has scheduled several performances to bring Christmas cheer.

The Missouri Southern Community Orchestra performed its annual Christmas concert Monday night in Taylor Auditorium. Pete Havelly, head of the music department, directs the orchestra.

Last evening, Taylor Auditorium was the scene for the 10th annual music department Christmas concert. The concert chorale, concert band, and jazz band performed. Each group was to do three or four individual numbers and combine, along with the audience, for the finale.

"It gets you in the Christmas spirit," said Bud Clark, director of choral activities.

Handel's *Messiah* takes place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Taylor Auditorium. Although 125 of the 225 chorus are Southern music students, the other 100 members are volunteers from the Joplin area.

"It was open to anybody who wanted to sing," said Kelley Fisher, freshman music education major. "But, the music's really hard."

This performance marks the sixth

year Southern's music department has performed *Messiah*.

"It's a Christmas present for the community," Clark said.

The show features a 45-piece orchestra. Clark has also brought in four guest soloists from across the United States.

KGCS will tape the performance, which will air at the following times on the local TV stations: KGCS, 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20; KSNF, 10:35 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 24; KOAM, 2:05 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25; and KODE, noon, Sunday, Dec. 27.

Keeping with the Christmas season, *Miracle on 34th Street* is currently running at the Stone's Throw Dinner Theatre in Carthage. The show features a 22-member cast, 12 of whom are children.

"We have lots of little kiddies we hope will talk to Santa and spontaneously get the script right," said Henry Heckert, resident director.

Miracle on 34th Street began Thursday and runs through Sunday as well as the following Thursday through Sunday. Dinner service is at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, and 1 p.m. on Sundays. The tickets are \$16 for adults, \$15 for adults over 55, and \$12 for students 15 and under. Seating is limited and persons interested need to reserve tickets in advance by contacting the theatre. □

WITH A LITTLE MORE FEELING



Liliana Valencia(left), Matthew Davidson(center), and Rachel Arnold(right) perform in the play "The Mouse's Tale," a folk story from Zambia, Africa.

NOFPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

The Chart

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Arts Showcases

The best of the best

Romance, style influence film choices

I'm surprised Jeff, who at every available chance bashes *Titanic*, included as many so-called chick flicks on his top 10 list. It seems he really does have a compassionate heart after all.

Though Jeff's second choice of *Saving Private Ryan* is a virtual blood bath, ironically my list offers many more gore-ridden selections.

Although I agree many of Jeff's choices are award-worthy movies, I do, however, think he gets too bogged down in trying to cure society's ills in his top 10 list. Where's the innovation? I enjoy movies that really push the envelop in areas including subject matter but not excluding screen writing, style of direction, and quality of acting.

Jeff may feel the need to bash my choice of *Pulp Fiction*, but he fails to see that though the film may have even the toughest men feeling sick to their stomach after the "gimp" scene, the screenplay with all its twisted turns is pure genius.

I had to include *The Graduate* as my second choice due to the fact that it paints a humorous look at the feeling of confusion college graduates experience, a group I will be joining in just a week. However, I can assure you my own confusion will not lead me to have an affair with one of my parents' friends. In today's era of 25-year-old actresses being teamed with 50-year-old leading men, it's a welcome change to see *The Graduate* prove that even middle-aged women can still be attractive.

My main criticism of Jeff's list would be most of the films contain similar issues and may be too serious for the average movie viewer.

I don't mean to say these issues are not important ones to address, in fact I believe quite the contrary. However, I believe the true purpose of film is to entertain and to provide an escape from the frustrations of day-to-day life.

If I was making a list of movies to help raise social consciousness of important issues, I would agree with Jeff's list almost completely, but my definition of what makes a movie a success may differ slightly from that of my co-writer.

My true definition of a successful movie is one that excites human emotion whether it be love, fear, joy, anger, or sadness.

For this reason, I had no other choice than to pick *Gone With the Wind* as my favorite movie of all time due to the fact that every time I watch the classic, though this is hard for me to admit, I cry like a baby as Rhett Butler leaves and steps out of Scarlett O'Hara's life just as she's realizing the love she's felt for him all along.

Here are my choices:

1) *Gone With the Wind* (1939) — This movie has stood the test of time. Nearly 60 years after its release, it's still garnering new fans. *Gone With the Wind* has been a favorite

of mine since childhood. Growing up, I used to want to be just like Scarlett O'Hara — strong yet vulnerable with a subtle nastiness.

2) *The Graduate* (1967) — Dustin Hoffman broke into movie stardom with this film. Not only does it address an eyebrow-raising subject by even today's standards, it also broke ground incorporating popular music in the film's score.

3) *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) — It's a feel-good holiday movie that one can really identify with. It is to Christmas what blockbuster movies are to summer.

4) *Goodfellas* (1990) — I've always been a fan of real-life sagas. If you get a little queasy around blood, this may not be the movie for you, but it's as gritty as mob movies can be. And it's Scorsese and DeNiro. Need I say more?

5) *Good Will Hunting* (1997) — Possibly the best-written movie of the twentysomething generation. It's the type of movie this age group has been yearning for; it's funny, gut wrenching, and intelligent. The fact the film's two hunky stars wrote the screenplay make the film and its actors even more appealing and desirable.

6) *Psycho* (1960) — Hitchcock defines the horror genre for future generations in making Janet Leigh the first true "scream queen." *Psycho* opened the doors to a new edgier form of movie making.

7) *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967) — Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn star in a gutsy movie made amidst the tumultuous 60s. The movie exposes hidden prejudices as two families learn to cast away the shadow set by society's ignorance.

8) *Pulp Fiction* (1994) — Quentin Tarantino is without a doubt a true visionary. *Pulp Fiction* completely broke the mold not only in the flip-flop sequencing style, but also in its casting. Casting John Travolta was the best thing that could have happened to *Pulp Fiction* and Travolta himself.

9) *Sunset Boulevard* (1950) — This film also revitalized the career of a Hollywood has-been. Gloria Swanson portrays, in convincing fashion, a former silent movie goddess turned reclusive, psychotic, lunatic, washed-out actress. She mesmerizes the screen so much so that one has to wonder how much her part necessitated acting.

10) *Schindler's List* (1993) — It's a movie about love and compassion in quite possibly the one of the most horrific time in world history. The film also won an Academy Award for quite possibly the most powerful and innovative film maker of all time. You may have heard of him; his name is Steven Spielberg. □

Favorites work to cure societal woes

When the idea first came up for this dual column, I was certain Susie and I would have choices that were complete opposites. I was pleasantly surprised to discover Susie had a similar taste when it came to the American film.

But, mind you, while our lists somewhat coincided there, were a few deviations of which I took notice. Most of her choices of films do contain important social issues, though a few seem to meander into a different direction.

I do enjoy all the films on her list, with the exception of *Pulp Fiction*, which to this day conjures up bad memories of

war doesn't even compare to the film. If anything can discourage war, it is this movie.

As I said, I think Susie picked some good films, but I question her reasoning for placing them in their final positions. It appears that when I am selecting films of socioeco-

nomics importance, some of Susie's appear nothing more than mere entertainment. I know some people, including Susie, believe this is the primary reason for silver screen entertainment. I do not. I think filmmakers should step beyond the entertainment factor and strive for something a bit higher. Capra did this over half a century ago, and Spielberg is making these same strides today. These

films are not always the over-budgeted *Titanic*, but they do, in my opinion, teach us a lesson about the human condition.

Here are my choices:

1. *Schindler's List* (1993) — It examines the fact the human psyche is a hard thing to manipulate by showing even though someone may be conditioned to believe one ideology, sometimes human conscience and a feeling of humanity takes over.

2. *Saving Private Ryan* (1998) — One of the few movies to shed the rose-colored glasses of war and display the irreparable damage it can cause.

3. *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) — A film that needs to be seen more so people can understand the struggles of the

lower class yesterday and today.

4. *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939) — It shows how, in politics, people often bypass the good of the country for the good of their own pocketbooks and standing.

5. *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962) — The film displays the characteristics of courage, faith, and a childhood innocence that seems to make more ethical sense than adult judgments of the time.

6. *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967) — A beautifully told story of how one family fights to overcome the set social standards in search of what is truly important in life.

7. *Gone With the Wind* (1939) — Though Scarlett O'Hara is not the most likable person, her character is one to emulate; a true survivor. Many people seem to let their ambition to survive fall to the side and then pity themselves over its loss.

8. *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) — A film that makes a person feel better about mankind. This film displays a characteristic which I think anybody can stand to improve upon — selflessness.

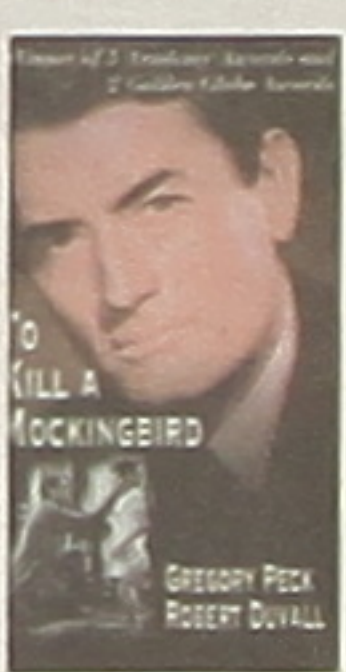
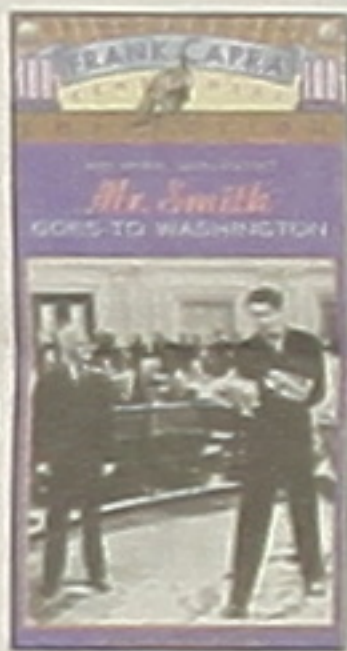
9. *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955) — It takes a deep look at the rebellious side of youth, including what spawns it and then keeps it growing.

10. *Psycho* (1960) — It has several lessons, including those on crime, mental illness, and the fact things are not always what they seem. □



Susie Frisbie
Arts Editor

Jeff Billington
Associate Editor



Arts Calendar

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Susie Frisbie at 625-9311.



■ **Stone's Throw Community Theatre** presents "Miracle On 34th Street," playing the 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, and 20. Call (417) 358-9665 for details.

Sunday 13
2 p.m.—

"Messiah" Rehearsal

Monday 14
6 p.m.—

"Messiah" Rehearsal

Tuesday 15
7:30 p.m.—

Handel's "Messiah," Taylor Auditorium

Thursday 17
7:30 p.m.—

Choral Society Concert, Taylor Auditorium

January

Wednesday 27
7:30 p.m.—

"Tartuffe: Born Again," Taylor Auditorium

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Southern keeps senior young

By MARY HAWKINS
CHART REPORTER

The students at Missouri Southern are what keeps Moose Leighton feeling young.

Leighton, a 28-year-old senior speech and theatre education major, has a busy life with many responsibilities.

He is a husband, a father, a student, and an actor.

"The best thing about Southern is since everyone's kind of young, it keeps me young," Leighton said. "On the other hand, the worst thing is that since everyone's so much younger, I tire out easily. I have a house, kids, a family. I'm pretty tired by the end of the day."

Despite his busy life, Leighton still finds some spare time for a little fun. He has many entertaining stories to tell.

He and his wife, Julia, were married on Valentine's Day 1997 during the morning show on KOAM-TV. Later that evening, they had their actual wedding ceremony. Then, they renewed their vows on television this year for their one-year anniversary.

"I've been married three times to the same lady," Leighton said.

He not only got a wife when they married, but three children as well. Their children, Amanda, 10, Patric, 9, and Tuesday, 5, keep him on his toes.

"I think they're pretty special," he said. "We have lots of fun. One time, we were playing hide-and-go-seek in the dark, and I ran into a guide wire. That was painful. I've had many near-death experiences. Parenting is not a safe job."

Aside from his family, Leighton has another love — the theater.

"I've always been interested in theater since high school," he said. "I've always been outgoing."

Leighton's career goal is to become a high school speech and theater teacher.

"I want to get other kids in theater," he said. "I think all of us are actors in some way or another."

One thing many people ask Leighton is if his first name is really Moose.

"I was the biggest baby in the nursery and the people that came to see me said 'Him look like a moose,' so that became my name," he said.

Leighton prides himself on two things in particular. One of them is his children.

"I've kind of been thrust into fatherhood,

"I think all of us are actors in some way or another."

Moose Leighton
Senior speech/theatre
education major

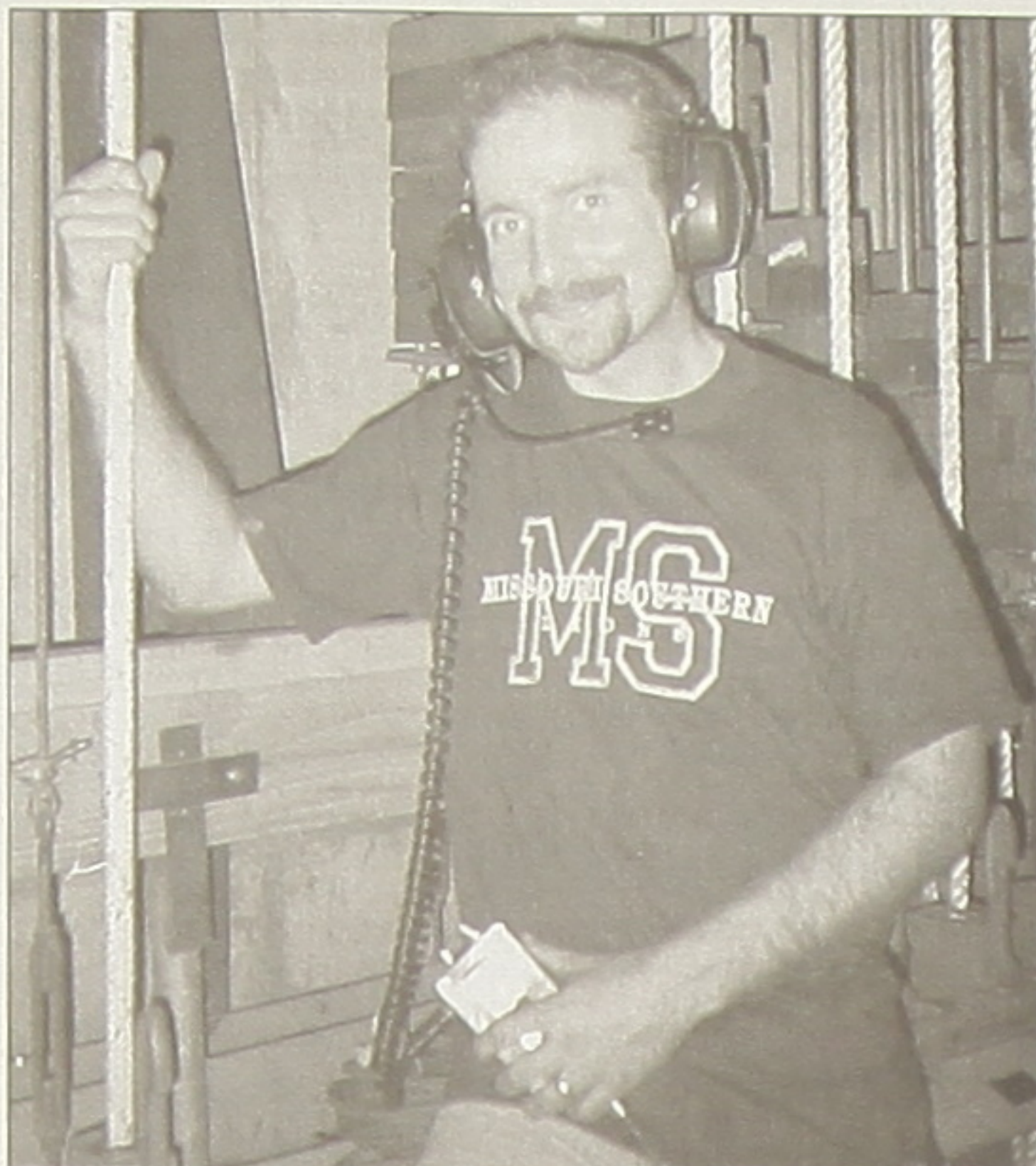
but I've learned that they're really just little people with their own personalities," he said. Leighton is also proud of his acting.

"I can say that I think I'm an accomplished actor," he said. "I'm proud of the fact that I've written a play."

Although Leighton constantly has many things going on in his life, he is able to find a little time to take a break and enjoy life.

"I really enjoy just watching people," Leighton said.

"Some of my characters come from people I've seen." □



SARAH KYLE/The Chart

Moose Leighton takes time out backstage from his theatre department duties.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Junior enjoying Southern's small and friendly atmosphere



SARAH KYLE/The Chart

Marisa Daily, junior elementary education major, found Southern one month before her freshman semester.

By JANA BLANKENSHIP
STAFF WRITER

Making a last-minute decision seems to have made all the difference in Marisa Daily's life.

A junior elementary education major, she had no intentions of attending college until one month before classes began.

Daily saw an ad for Missouri Southern in a catalog, and drove by the campus during a trip to Joplin. She liked what she saw.

Daily's parents wanted her to attend the University of Arkansas instead of a college three hours away from her home in Harrison, Ark. Daily wanted to attend a college where the classes were small and the instructors knew her by name.

"Now my parents are glad I came here," she said. "They love it, and they support it."

At first, Daily said she was homesick and scared.

"It was really scary at first because I didn't know anyone," she said. "Not anyone at all, but now it's easy to fit in."

She joined Alpha Sigma as a way to meet new people, and though currently a member, she hasn't attended many meetings lately.

Daily has been a waitress at Jim Bob's in Joplin for about four months. She also is in her third year of working in the office of Dr. Michael Horvath, dean of education. Altogether, she works about 25 hours a week.

In her spare time, Daily enjoys spending time with her boyfriend of one year, R.J. Forth, a 1998 Southern graduate. She met him at a party through mutual friends.

"I try to run when I have free time," Daily said. "On the weekends, I work or go to football games with my

friends. I also go home sometimes, but I spend a lot of my time at the softball park watching R.J."

Her dream is to get her master's degree, move near an ocean, and work as a school counselor.

"If I touch just one child's life teaching, then I guess I've served my purpose," she said.

Daily is also a College Orientation leader. She received a letter in the mail saying she had been nominated. After sending in her application and references, Daily went for an interview.

She also had to go through "selection," where everyone comes together and performs skits.

"I like the experience of being up in front of a class," Daily said. "I was so nervous at first. Now I'm finally starting to get used to it, and it's almost over."

Her most embarrassing moment happened during her freshman year

on the first day of class.

"I walked into class and sat down," Daily said. "The instructor called roll, but I didn't hear my name called. I realized I was in the wrong class, and I didn't want to get up, so I just stayed there all during class."

I was supposed to be in English 101, but instead I went into a literature class."

Biology has been Daily's favorite class so far in college.

"I enjoyed biology, which was a shock," she said. "I hated science before, and Dr. [Jim] Jackson made me understand."

The thing Daily said makes her unique is the fact she's in Missouri but is from Arkansas.

Daily does, however, have a brother who attends medical school in Little Rock.

"I'm pretty easy-going," she said. "I'm open-minded. I have no trouble accepting different kinds of people." □

BIOLOGY



GINNY DUMOND/The Chart

Melissa Stith, junior biology major, keeps busy with classes and work. She has found a home away from home with her grandmother and Southern.

Stith finds second home

By BRIAN COPELAND
CHART REPORTER

Home away from home is what Melissa Stith, junior biology major, would say about her current living arrangements.

Moving to Joplin from her hometown of Ramona, Okla., was a major difference, but Stith made herself right at home.

She comes from a Southern Baptist family that includes a brother Matt, 17, her mother Jill, and her father Mike.

While staying in Joplin, she lives with her grandmother.

"Being away from home is great, but it's nice to know that there is somebody there for me to lean on," Stith said.

At the age of 20 she had made many difficult decisions in her life, and one decision was which college to attend.

"It's away from home, but yet it's not," Stith said.

"The good thing about Southern is it is small but has a big atmosphere. The bad thing about Southern is the parking."

Before landing in Joplin, Stith and her family traveled all over the West Coast states except Alaska.

They have gone to Washington three times and spent time in Hawaii.

Since moving to Joplin, Stith has worked five different jobs.

From making tacos for two years at Taco Bell to working two weeks at ATC Communication, she has worked her way up the career ladder.

Stith worked for Venture for three years until it filed for bankruptcy in March.

She now works part-time at Wal-Mart and as a secretary for the public information office at Southern.

"That's the proudest moment in my life right now, working two part-time jobs and still keeping my grades up at college," Stith said. □

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Shanda McGhee, a junior pre-law major, enjoys a candid moment with her daughter Alyxandra.

SPECIAL TO THE CHART

College challenging for single mom

By TRACY ROGERS
CHART REPORTER

Faculty-student relationships is one of the wonderful aspects that attracted Oklahoma native Shanda McGhee to Missouri Southern.

"Overall, from what I have seen here at Southern, teachers are more willing to assist students than at most colleges," said McGhee, a junior pre-law major from Miami, Okla. "The teachers seem to really care about the students and if they are grasping everything being taught."

McGhee decided to go into pre-law because she is interested in the legal rights of citizens.

"The best aspect the criminal justice department has is the level of education," she said. "They teach not only the principles but the applications as well."

Along with going to school full time she is also a single mother raising her 2-year-old daughter.

"It is very challenging, going to school, working, and raising Alyx," McGhee said. "I try to spend most of my time doing things with her. After she goes to bed I still have enough time to do homework."

In her spare time, McGhee enjoys playing with her daughter, reading, and horseback riding.

"Once a month I try to take an hour for myself," she said.

McGhee works for Harvest Time Ministry in Miami, Okla.

"They are really great to work for," she said. "They understand and are very flexible with my school schedule and unexpected times when I need off for my daughter."

One of the most influential people in McGhee's life has been Terry Wynn, the associate pastor at Harvest Time Ministry.

"The reason she has been so influential on me is because she is the best example of a strong woman achieving good

things in today's society," McGhee said. "I really admire her."

One of the most important lessons she has learned in her life is to trust in God.

"By trusting in God with everything, I know he will always provide even if it is not in my timing," McGhee said. "I was once asked if I was an optimistic or a pessimistic person, whether I looked at the glass half empty or half full. I explained to them that I don't focus on what is in the glass, I just thank God that it hasn't broken yet."

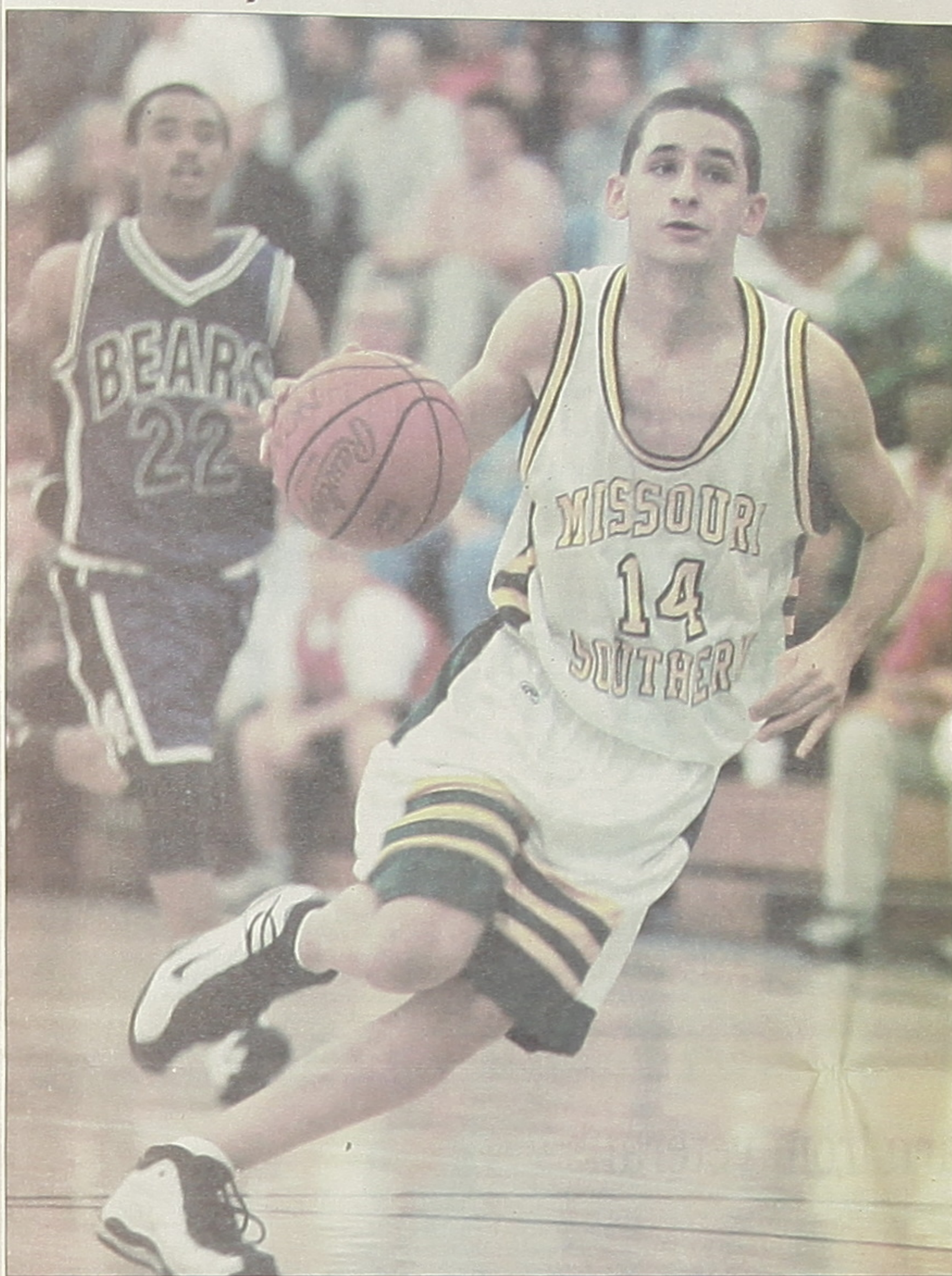
Her dream life would consist of staying at home with her daughter and becoming more involved with the ministry at her church. However, until that can be achieved, she plans to achieve another goal, becoming an attorney. McGhee plans to attend Tulsa University's Law School after obtaining her bachelor's degree from Southern. She hopes to become an attorney somewhere in the four-state area, focusing on religious or environmental rights. □

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Olson, Lions slam Bears at home



Missouri Southern freshman Eddin Santiago takes the ball to the hole last weekend in action against Central Arkansas. The Lions downed the Bears 80-54.

Matt Olson scores 21 in victory, Lions prepare for Rockhurst

By ANDRE L. SMITH
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Friday night, the Missouri Southern men's basketball team (4-3) made easy work of Central Arkansas with an 80-54 win at Robert Ellis Young Gymnasium. The Lions only shot 43 percent in the first half, but the Bears' 26.5 shooting percentage helped Southern to a 33-20 halftime lead.

The Lions' momentum continued early in the second half after a slam by senior center Matt Olson. Olson, who had 21 points, shot 50 percent from the field and played 27 minutes.

The Lions also got 15 points from junior forward Carlos Newberry and 13 points from Allan Brown. Brian Taylor, Terry Shumpert, and Newberry led the team with seven rebounds apiece.

"From the rebounding standpoint, it was one of our better games," said head coach Robert Corn. "Even though we were out-rebounded by one, we competed and we've struggled with that so far."

Another aspect of the game Corn wanted to improve on was the team's aggressiveness and ability to create foul shot opportunities.

The Bears hit only six of 11 fouls shots to Southern's 18 of 21.

"Not only has rebounding hurt us, but opponents have gotten to the foul line a lot more than us," Corn said. "We've been trying to play more aggressively and get to the line."

Southern hosted the Freeman Sports Medicine/Chris Tucker Memorial Classic Nov. 27-28.

On Friday night the Lions dropped a 79-71 decision to Southwestern Oklahoma.

They lost to Central Oklahoma 105-98 Saturday night.

The previous week they participated in the Pittsburg State Classic and beat Central Arkansas 101-90 on the first night but lost to William Jewell 75-71 Saturday.

Corn said he was not pleased with his team's play after the losses to William Jewell and Southwestern Oklahoma.

"Our effort wasn't very good," Corn said. "It wasn't where it needed to be. Against Central Oklahoma it came down to making big plays at the end of the game, but even though we lost I was satisfied with our effort."

Through seven games, Olson leads the team in scoring with a 17.3 average followed by Larry Gause's 13.9.

Newberry is third with 11.6 points per game. Taylor averages 5.3 rebounds per game and Olson averages 4.6 boards.

Redshirt freshman Eddin Santiago averages seven assists followed by Gause's 4.8 assists. Santiago also leads the team with 15 steals.

The Lions are back in action today as they face Rockhurst at 7 p.m. in Kansas City. □

Sports Scope



By Andre L. Smith
Sports Editor

Olson cousins: Good attitude runs in family

Just when things could get no worse, they didn't. In the last three weeks or so, the Missouri Southern women's basketball team matched last year's number of wins with a victory over Henderson State on Nov. 28.

Indeed, the win gave the Lady Lions something to be thankful for after a 4-22 season last year, but they received an early Christmas present by way of Mandy Olson's back-to-back 23-point explosions against West Georgia and Henderson State. Olson also found herself in good enough position to snag nine boards against West Georgia, which head coach Amy Townsend said was good for the team to witness.

"It was wonderful to see her score like that," Townsend said. "She has always been a great leader on the court, but when she does it in a game it gives her that much more respect from the team."

Mandy is not the only Olson to put the ball in the basket while sporting a Southern jersey. Her cousin Matt, the man in the middle for the Southern men's team, is once again leading the team in scoring with 17.3 points per game. He has a 66.7 shooting percentage this season and set Southern's single-season record by shooting 63 percent last season.

And when Southern fans, coaches, and players are looking for a big play, they usually look in the direction of the 6-9, 225-pound senior. If you are listening to Ron Fauss on the radio and Southern needs a spark, it won't be long until he yells, "Jaaaaaaams it home" at the top of his lungs.

Both Mandy and Matt had stellar careers at Neosho High School. Mandy totaled 1,113 points as a varsity player and shared team most valuable player honors for three years. She was a Lions Club All-Star following her senior year.

Matt was a scorer in high school as well. He averaged 16.8 points and 8.2 rebounds as a senior. He was a first-team all-league, all-district, and all-area player. He was a major part of the Wildcats' 20-6 record his senior year when they won the conference crown and were runner-ups in the district.

Not only are the Olsons stellar athletes, but they are also stellar people.

Mandy puts her team before herself and is a firm believer in the notion of "no I in team." Although she may appear to some as quiet, Mandy is very popular among her Southern peers. She was blessed with inner and outer beauty and a heart-warming smile.

Matt, an active member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a gentlemen off the court. He presents himself as a humble man with a strong relationship with God who cares about people.

Although Matt towers over most people, his humble heart allows him to meet eye to eye with anyone. He is a role model to children all over the area.

Athletic excellence may run in the family, and I think good attitudes do as well. I think many people will agree when I say that the two of them are very appreciated for their dedication to Southern basketball and just being good people.

It's sometimes hard to keep a professional relationship when speaking with them, but if it stifled a growth of a friendship, I say it's not worth it. □

TENNIS/GOLF

New tennis coach instills new attitude

By DAN GUSTAFSON
AND JOE ECKHOFF
OF THE CHART STAFF

Something is different about Missouri Southern's women's tennis this year.

New coach Linda Gebauer has taken over and hopes to instill a new attitude and work ethic. Gebauer, also the girls' coach at Joplin High School, looks forward to seeing what her players can do next spring.

"There is a big difference between high school and college," she said. "But, I am really excited about the program and attitude."

The college tennis scene has a two-fold scoring system. First, there is the individual scores and records of the actual players of the matches. Second, and equally important, is the team scoring, in which points are awarded to the overall team for each match.

In a sense, the Lady Lions have two seasons. They have a "practice" season in the fall and a regular season in the spring. This fall the Lady Lions spent time adjusting to the new system Gebauer implemented.

This fall, the Lady Lions played a limited schedule and participated in a few tournaments. The largest tournament was the MIAA Fall Classic in which most of the conference teams were present.

"Although team scores weren't kept, I think we did very well," Gebauer said. "I think we showed a lot of potential."

Southern had matches with John Brown University and Southwest Baptist University, emerging victo-

rious on both occasions.

"Last year this team finished around .500," Gebauer said. "This year, we would really like to improve on that."

With a full fall and little time off this winter, the Lady Lions hope to be ready by the opener on March 1.

"We have a tough conference and a tough schedule," Gebauer said. "But this team has a great attitude, and that can carry us a long way."

Lions Golf

With having no seniors on this year's squad, the Lions golf team knew they would take some lumps this year. Although the Lions have not had a good fall season, they have had some individuals play well. The problem for the Lions has been having five guys play consistent.

"We have to have five guys play well, we don't have one great player, everyone has to play consistent, and nobody can play bad," Lions Head Coach Larry Clay said.

One area the Lions didn't excel at in the fall was their short game. They played well off the tee, but the short game needs some work.

"Our short game and putting we have to improve on, it will come down to guys who work hard in the winter and improve, and when they come back I'll be able to tell who worked and practiced over the winter," Clay said.

With only having five golfers whose scores count, the final spots are open for the Lions.

"I expect the Chad Smith, Brian Smith, and Heath Alloway to be back, but it's a toss up for the oth-

ers, they are all evenly matched in score, we have many different combinations," he said.

Chad Smith, who was third for the Lions in overall score (77.6), wasn't impressed with the overall finishes, but was happy with the effort of the squad.

"We didn't play as well as we could, but we are young, we don't have many juniors Smith said. "We played well at times this year."

Like Coach Clay, Smith also felt the short game was a problem this year.

"We need to practice our short game, putting and chipping everybody had problems, and we need to stay away from the penalty shots," he said.

With having a young team, maturity is a big part of staying composed in matches, and the Lions have some faults.

"Our maturity was not consistent, but I am looking forward to next semester," Smith said.

Even with having some mistakes, Smith believes the Lions can turn it around next semester.

"We have a young team, and everybody makes some mistakes, and being young will help us in the future," he said.

With being young, the Lions should be around each other as a team for a few years.

"In the future, everyone will get to know each other a lot better, Smith said.

The top three overall average for the Lions were junior Brian Smith (75.6), Sophomore Heath Alloway (77.4), and junior Chad Smith (77.6). □

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



FILE PHOTO

The Lady Lions downed the Ozark Christian College Lady Ambassadors earlier this season.

Lady Lions drop two at Central tourney

By ANDRE L. SMITH
SPORTS EDITOR

Last weekend in the Central Arkansas tournament, the Missouri Southern women's basketball team fell victim to Mississippi University for Women 63-53 on Friday and suffered a 71-53 loss from Central Arkansas on Saturday.

Southern (4-4) trailed by only one point at halftime Friday night, but MUW shot 14 of 18 from the charity stripe and sent Southern to the line only three times in the second

half to seal the win.

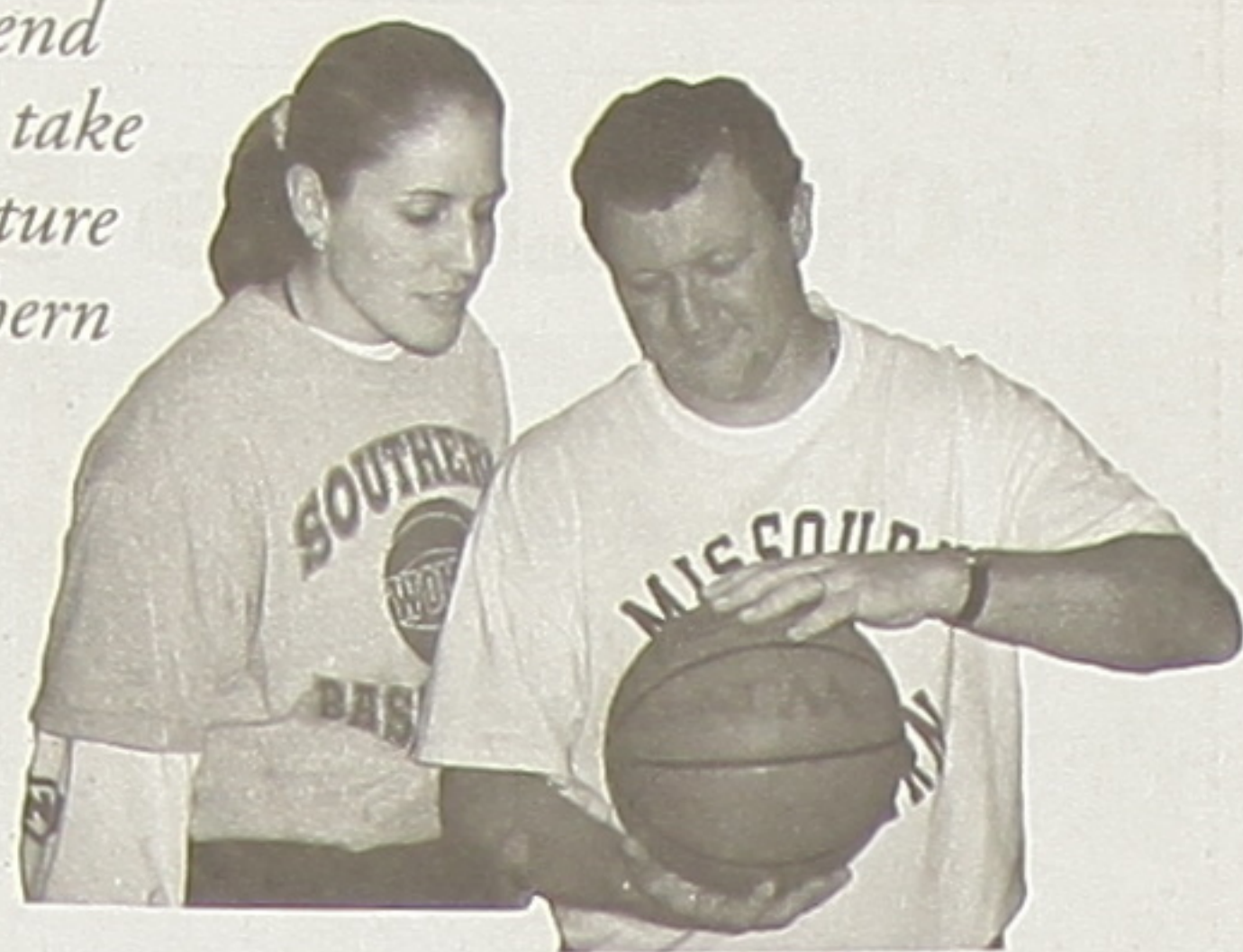
Sara Jones led all scorers in the contest with 21 points. Lyndsey Kenealy scored nine points and pulled down six rebounds, and Mandy Olson added eight points and nine rebounds.

Saturday night, the Lady Lions shot 39.6 percent to UCA's 52.5 percent for the game. The Sugar Bears led 36-27 at halftime and pulled away in the second half. UCA had four players score in double digits and out-rebounded the

TURN TO LADY LIONS, PAGE 10

VISIONS of the FUTURE

■ Amy Townsend and Robert Corn take a look into the future of Missouri Southern basketball.



JEFF WELLS/The Chart



Katie Gariss, a freshman from Joplin, has played in six of Southern's eight games this season.

Callahan, Gariss adjust to college game

By ANDRE L. SMITH
SPORTS EDITOR

Freshman point guard Jayme Callahan has directed traffic for the Missouri Southern women's basketball team through eight games, and head coach Amy Townsend says she is only getting better. Townsend says the same thing about freshman center Katie Gariss.

At Rosary High School in Florissant, Mo., Callahan set the school record in assists and steals. She tied Southern's single-game steals record with eight in the season opener against Ozark Christian College.

The 5-6 guard said she is much stronger than she was in high school but is still adjusting to the college game.

"I'm getting there, but I have a lot to work on," Callahan said. "There is a lot more pressure on the ball in college opposed to high school."

Townsend was impressed with Callahan's winning attitude and dedication to her position.

"Jayme is a player who won a lot of games in high school," Townsend said. "She was the point guard for a lot of legitimate Division I and II players. You're not going to always find a true '1' guard, and Jayme is just a point guard."

Townsend is excited she will get to coach Callahan throughout her career at Southern.

"We really needed a point guard to relieve some of the pressure on our other players," she said. "She may

be only 18 years old, but she is not afraid to get in someone's face. She takes on all challenges."

Gariss, who has played in six games for the Lady Lions, makes her presence felt when she sees action.

She scored nine points in 12 minutes against Mississippi University for Women.

"I think the most interesting thing for me was that Katie did a lot of good things when she first stepped on the floor last weekend," Townsend said. "She is very strong, and even though people questioned her foot speed, she gets open and works very hard."

Although she was well coached at Joplin's College Heights Christian High School, she has had trouble adjusting like most young players. She averaged 20 points per game as a senior and 21 as a junior. She scored 2,018 career points at College Heights on her way to earning two-time Christian Schools All-State honors.

"Katie has had some trouble adjusting to the terminology," Townsend said. "She is a good student and the girls love her. She really loves the game of basketball."

Gariss, like Callahan, is dedicated to becoming a solid player at her given position.

"You need someone to come in and be a true center," Townsend said, "and that's what she's done."

Gariss, who hopes to earn more time on the court, will go all out when she is needed.

"Usually in high school you have only a couple of players who really understand the game, but in col-

“

We really needed a point guard to relieve some of the pressure on our other players.

Amy Townsend
Lady Lions
head coach

”

lege everyone understands very well," Gariss said. "I'm pleased with my play so far, but I'm competitive enough that I want to work for more. I keep working hard to improve."

Both players admitted that physical strength is an aspect of the game they did not know about until after high school.

"I didn't have a weight program in high school, and I didn't figure I'd be this much stronger," Gariss said. "Six months on a weight program makes a lot of difference."

"I've gained 10 pounds of muscle since I've been here, and I hadn't really lifted weights in high school," Callahan added. □

Corn hopes youngsters will learn from veterans

Redshirt freshman matures, earns starting position

By ANDRE L. SMITH
SPORTS EDITOR

They observed their teammates as first-year players on Missouri Southern's basketball team, and now senior guard Larry Gause and freshman point guard Eddin Santiago are in the starting line-up. Freshman forward Terry Shumpert has made an early impact on Missouri Southern's men's basketball team as well.

Head coach Robert Corn said he had the future in mind when recruiting all three players, even Gause.

Gause transferred from State Fair Community College, where he earned Missouri junior college all-region honors.

He was a 41 percent shooter from behind the three-point arch but said he likes doing it all.

"I've been shooting the 3 a lot, but I put the ball on the floor more," Gause said. "I just like to do it all. If I'm open, I like to shoot, but I do whatever it takes to win."

In seven games this season, Gause has hit double digits five times, including a 20-point performance against Central Oklahoma. The reason Corn saw the future in Gause was because of his leadership and knowledge at the guard position.

"We felt like Larry could step in and give us quality minutes," Corn said. "Any time you recruit guards, you'd like to have older guards with your younger guards so the younger ones can learn and take over when the older ones leave."

Santiago, who prefers the name Guaya, averages seven assists so far this season. He

showed that he could score as well when he poured in 12 points against Central Arkansas on Nov. 20. Santiago averaged 13 points a game at Bayamon Military Academy in Puerto Rico.

After sitting out last season, he is pleased with his physical and mental development.

"The redshirt helped me a lot because I learned what kind of players I'd be playing against in the conference, and I was able to hit the weights," he said. "In Puerto Rico they basically play run and gun offense. In high school I was a shooter, but I like to pass the ball here and get everyone involved in the game."

Santiago said everyone he knows in Puerto Rico calls him "Guaya," which means toughness. Corn said not only has he gotten tougher, but he has great court vision.

"Guaya brings poise and court awareness to the game," Corn said. "He sees the floor very well."

Southern assistant coach Chris Lowery said Gause and Santiago have similar strengths.

"Both of them are better than we thought, and they are great competitors," Lowery said. "They pass the ball well and are capable of guarding point guards, shooting guards, and small forwards. They are very versatile."

Shumpert came to the Lions from Tilghman High School in Paducah, Ky., where he averaged 20 points per game and earned most valuable player and all-state accolades. The freshman guard has played in all seven games so far this season and has started two. He averages 8.3 points per game and 3.4 rebounds.

Corn said he brings lots of energy to the team when he is in the game.

"He's refreshing the way he takes the ball to the basket," he said. "He is a player that is not intimidated."

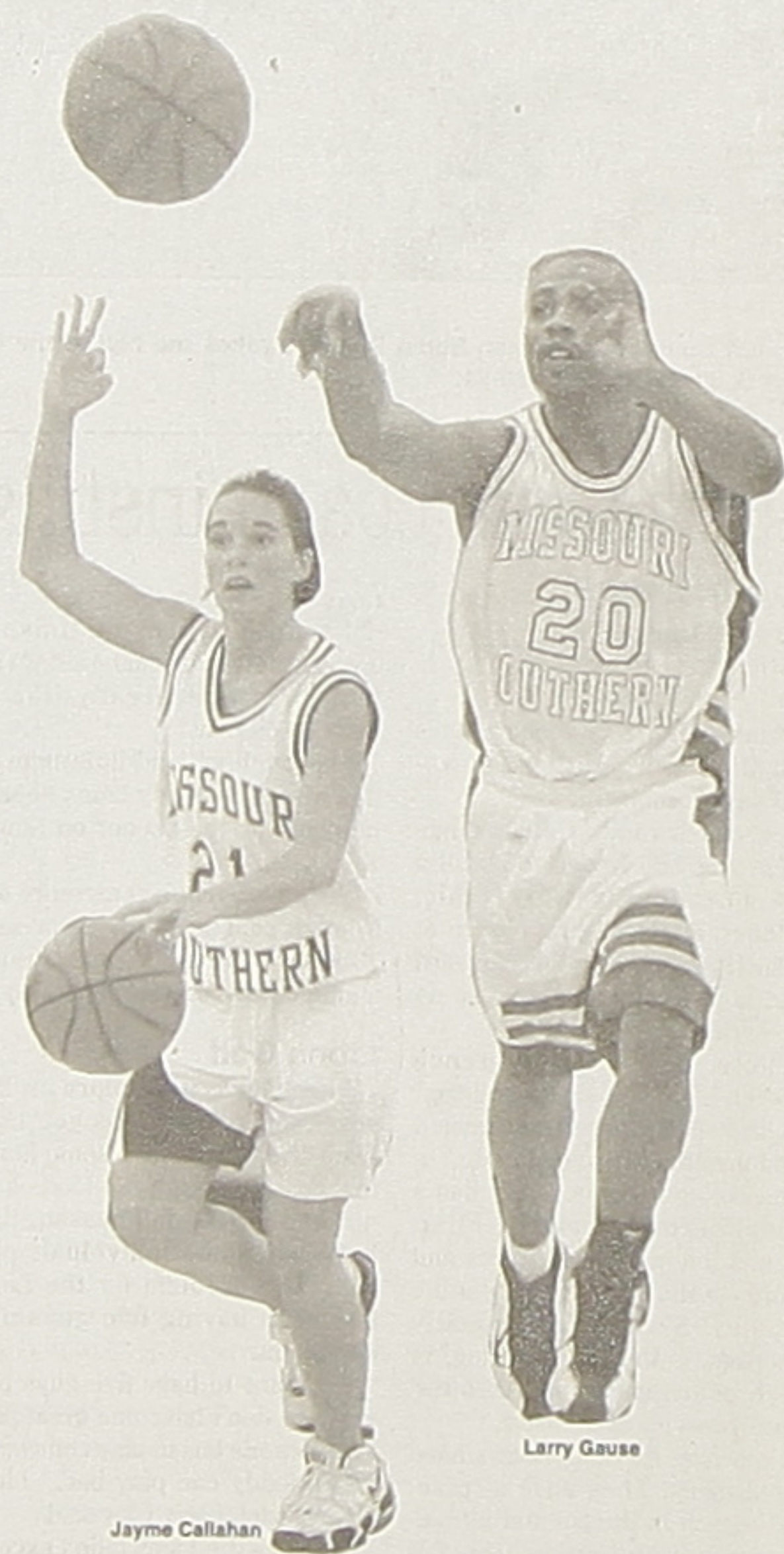


Terry Shumpert is not intimidated by opponents according to head coach Robert Corn.

Corn said the younger players are learning from older players such as Gause and senior guard Mario Phillips.

He added that he was excited about what is to come.

"Whenever you have two freshmen doing good things and in your top eight players, you know you're headed in the right direction," he said. □



Jayme Callahan

Larry Gause

LADY LIONS: Olson raises eyebrows in tourney, Lady Lions travel to Russellville for weekend battle with Arkansas Tech

From Page 9

Lady Lions 36-33.

"We weren't mentally prepared to play Mississippi University for Women on Saturday," said Southern head coach Amy Townsend. "Central Arkansas is one of the best teams in their division, and these are good warm-up games for us. They will help us in our conference schedule."

Two weekends ago, the Lady Lions hosted the Missouri Southern Radio Shack Classic at Robert

Ellis Young Gymnasium. They went undefeated in the tournament by way of an 81-76 win over West Georgia and a 69-66 win over Henderson State. Olson scored 23 in both contests and also grabbed nine rebounds against West Georgia. Olson said she was not surprised by her 23-point performances because "it shows that any player can step up on any given night."

"I had been scoring eight or 10 points a game," she said. "I think it was good for the team to see that any one of us could step up. As a team leader I

wasn't concerned about how many points I scored because it wouldn't have meant anything if we had lost."

On Nov. 24, the Lady Lions lost 66-57 to Rockhurst in Kansas City. Jones scored 17 points and had eight rebounds in the loss.

At the Central Missouri Classic Nov. 20-21, the Lady Lions lost 69-56 to Wayne State but redeemed themselves with a 68-57 victory over Iowa Wesleyan.

Against Wayne State, Stacy Wyatt led the way with

12 points and Kenealy scored a career-high 17 points against Iowa Wesleyan.

Through eight games, Jones, Kenealy, and Olson lead the team in scoring and rebounds. Jones averages 13 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Kenealy averages 12.5 points and 5.5 rebounds, while Olson pours in 11.1 per game and grabs five rebounds. Freshman point guard Jayme Callahan averages five assists per game.

The Lady Lions will battle Arkansas Tech at 7 p.m. Saturday in Russellville, Ark. □



Scott Meeker, senior English major, had his name posted on the billboard outside The Pancake House on Range Line Road. His name was posted as a reward for eating the restaurant's double bacon cheeseburger.

NOPPADOL PAOTHONG
The Chart

Southern student eats his way to local fame

By SCOTT MEEKER
STAFF WRITER

Home of the Fatburger," the sign at the Colonel's Pancake House, proudly announces. I'm sure it's not the kind of claim to fame every restaurant owner dreams of, but it's not one I would contest after staring down at the monstrosity that sat upon my plate. I found it kind of ironic I was attempting to eat the better portion of an animal that had once possessed three more stomachs than I.

Why was I doing this? I guess it all boils down to six words: I DID NOT SURVIVE THE SIZZLER. On a dare from a friend, I attempted to get my name on the sign at Casa Montez by eating its notoriously hot burrito. I could just see my name out there, glittering in the night for all to see. I would be a star, a great big shining star. Unfortunately, Casa Montez does not put your name on the sign or give you a free T-shirt if you break down and cry after two or three bites. The most my waitress did was pat me on the back and bring me a few extra

glasses of water. My ego (and taste buds) still stinging, I set out to find another way to get my name up in lights. That was when my roommate told me about the Colonel's Pancake House and its double bacon cheeseburger. The deal was simple: If you can eat it, the Colonel puts your name out on the sign.

My girlfriend, Cameo, insists that eating "big food" is definitely a boy thing, but she wanted to be there when I tried so she could lend me moral support. Translation: she wanted to come along to make fun of me. So with her and an empty stomach in tow, we arrived at the restaurant a little after 7 on a Friday evening.

The dining area at the Colonel's is smaller than your average college classroom. The room is divided into smoking/non-smoking sections, but due to the cramped quarters, there really isn't any point.

The owners also seem to have a minor obsession with ceramic frogs, which decorate the mantle and fireplace near the entrance. The chalkboard hanging on the wall listed the day's special as peanut butter pancakes with chocolate syrup. The restaurant wasn't much to look at, but

that's usually the type of place where one can find the best food.

Our server was a young man who, upon learning I wanted to get my name out on the sign, suggested I should try the new Titanic triple bacon cheeseburger special. A half-pound heavier than the double cheeseburger, the dinner also comes with a half-pound slab of ham. However, the special did not include a complimentary stomach pump, so I decided to just do it the old-fashioned way.

Our food arrived about 20 minutes later. Standing about six inches high, the burger could easily double as a bank vault door stop. It consisted of two half-pound hamburger patties, about a half-dozen greasy strips of bacon, and enough cheese to bind up a mere mortal for a week. I had asked for some tomatoes and onions, but I hadn't counted on getting the whole tomato and onion. What little space remained on the plate was piled high with potato chips. Thankfully, I was informed that I didn't have to eat them to get my name on the sign.

It was pretty intimidating to look at. It would all be worth it, though. Soon the whole world would marvel at my accomplishment. I had already picked out a clever title for my story: *Burger Nights*, a story that was sure to

garner a seven-figure book and movie deal. I was brought back down to earth when Cameo began to laugh. "You're going to get sick if you eat all of that," she said as she began to eat her normal-sized chicken sandwich.

I sat there for a few moments trying to decide how on earth I was supposed to take a bite out of the thing. In the end, I decided eating it from the top down was the best approach. About 15 minutes later, I had made my way through half the burger, including all of the bacon and most of the tomatoes and onions. I was also extremely full. Cameo had finished her sandwich and was quietly humming the theme from *Rocky* under her breath.

Our server checked back periodically to observe my progress, which had attracted the attention of the family at the table across from us. I had also become convinced the ceramic frog wearing the top hat was laughing at me from his perch on the mantle. I'd show them. I'd show them all. Picking up my fork, I went back to work. Another 15 minutes passed, and I was down to the last few bites. My stomach had long ago passed its maximum capacity level. I was trying to decide if I could slip the remaining bites into

my napkin when our server came back with a slip of paper and a pencil to get my name.

The fork seemed to weigh a ton as I slowly finished it off. I awaited the applause that was sure to greet my heroic deed, but it didn't come.

Cameo just shook her head at me. The family across from us had lost interest and were eating their own meals. The ceramic frog had turned his attention elsewhere. I felt sick.

The server took my name down and promised my name would be up soon. We paid our ticket and I somehow managed to stumble out to the car before collapsing in the front seat.

I didn't eat again for nearly 24 hours. I slept fitfully that night, enduring grease-induced nightmares of giant burgers and dancing frogs.

A few weeks later, I was told that my name was out on their sign. SCOTT MEEKER ATE THE DOUBLE BACON CHEESEBURGER, it read for all to see. People were seeing it and were being given hope.

Hope they too could one day reach their goals. It was probably the best hamburger I've ever had, but to be honest, I hope I never eat another hamburger as long as I live. □



Scott Meeker
Senior
English major

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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Council names Committee to study Memorial Hall

Carthage's Memorial Hall is the subject of review by a city council committee. The committee is studying plans to increase space in the building. The cost of the proposed renovation will be \$1.2 to \$1.5 million.

Rentals draw \$50,000 to the city, \$40,000 short of the hall's operating costs.

Plans will be presented to the council Jan. 4. □

Grand jury investigates Newton Co. controversies

A grand jury was seated Monday in Newton County to investigate \$900,000 in costs unaccounted for from a 1996-97 remodeling of the county courthouse and missing funds in the town of Fairview.

Circuit Judge Tim Perigo will supervise the jury's operation. Prosecutor Greg Bridges requested the grand jury after residents voiced concern. □

Cancer screening program largest of its kind

The Mercy Regional Health Foundation at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin announced Dec. 1 this year's free area-wide colorectal cancer screening was the largest health screening of any kind held in the region.

More than 13,000 people requested the free test kit. Of 7,680 completing the test, 723 were found to have a possible health problem.

The month-long program offered area residents a simple test kit to be used in the privacy of the home, and then it was sent back to the Foundation for evaluation. St. John's laboratory staff evaluated the tests and the Foundation informed the participants of the results.

Colorectal cancer is the leading cancer killer in the United States. One out of 20 American adults develops the disease during their lives. □

Blunt named to House Commerce Committee

U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) will serve on the House of Representatives' Commerce Committee during the 106th Congressional Session.

He will have to vacate seats on the transportation and agriculture committees to take the new post.

Blunt plans to continue supporting agriculture and transportation in Southwest Missouri.

"Being on the Commerce Committee will give me new opportunities to deal with trade barriers to agriculture products along with environmental and regulatory issues that impact agriculture," he said.

The Commerce Committee has jurisdiction over foreign trade, interstate commerce, banking, telecommunications, environmental policy, energy, insurance, health programs and facilities, and tourism.

The Committee also has oversight over a number of government regulatory agencies.

Blunt was elected to a second two-year term in November. He also serves on the House Leadership Steering Committee, which makes committee assignments. □

Missouri-American helps poor families afford water

Low-income families suffering from temporary economic difficulties can seek relief from a new Missouri-American Water Co. program.

Missouri-American customers can voluntarily add \$1 to their monthly water bill to aid the Temporary Assistance Program (TAP).

The donations will be allocated to local agencies to help families continue water service. □

SALVATION ARMY

Seasonal sounds support needy

Southern students, staff join in sharing is caring tradition

By ELIZABETH SCHURMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Salvation Army and many Missouri Southern students work hard during the Christmas season to help people less fortunate than themselves.

The Salvation Army's bell ringing appears outside many stores each year. The service has been around for 121 years. Bell ringing began when a Salvation Army officer in San Francisco wanted to have a dinner for those in need. He set up a kettle for people to put money and food in to support the needs of the area.

Captain Michael Thomas of the Joplin Salvation Army says the bells mean much more than money.

"The bells are showing a sound of hope," he said.

Today, the tradition continues and has grown to affect hundreds of people in Joplin, including those who help with the effort.

"I helped with the bell ringing and I took my son," said Darla Boudreaux, secretary

to the honors program at Missouri Southern. "I wanted to take him to show him that he has an advantage, and I wanted him to remember the needy people this time of year."

Ring the bells helps people remember Christmas is also about giving, not just receiving.

"I wanted my son to not forget that there are other parts to Christmas, not just getting gifts, but giving to other people," Boudreaux said.

The Salvation Army has 21 locations in the Joplin area for the bell ringing. Money from the kettles goes for food, gifts, and to support the many ongoing services the Salvation Army puts on year round.

The Salvation Army, along with 27 other programs, also has a daily feeding program, a Family Life Center for helping the homeless, and an emergency food pantry.

Anyone wishing to help support the Salvation Army by volunteering for bell ringing may do so by contacting the Salvation Army at 624-4528. They are always in need of extra help. □



William Prater solicits donations for the Salvation Army outside Dillon's Super Market in Joplin. Bell ringing is a 121-year tradition for the charity.

Salvaging lives



(ABOVE) Gary Lawson removes remnants of his possessions from Building F of the Oxford Park II Apartments. (LEFT) Jason Bennett surveys his destroyed apartment.

A fire ripped through the building in the early morning hours of Dec. 2. The fire affected 18 units and destroyed eight. Twenty-four individuals were displaced after the fire.

The American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and local businesses immediately provided support to the victims.

NOPPADOL PAOTHONG
The Chart

DOWNTOWN JOPLIN

Service provides downtown nightlife patrons safe rides

By JO BETH HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

With the holidays coming up, statistics indicate more drunk drivers hit the road.

Joplin's downtown "Bar Strip" has done something to counteract this.

Clubs like Rafter's, Champs, and The Dolphin Club have started a shuttle service for patrons when they have had too much to drink. The shuttle service started in early September, and isn't just for the holidays.

Keith McCoy, manager of Champs, said he had to do something when Joplin police officers started hanging around the strip to catch DWIs. McCoy called Chief Edward Dennis to set up a meeting for a solution.

In an offhand remark, McCoy suggested they start a shuttle service for the bars. Dennis jumped on the idea, and away it went.

McCoy contacted City Taxi about having the service through it, but the cost was prohibitive. The service is now through 4-Star Limousine, who currently has two vans picking up club patrons and taking them home. The way to measure the shuttle service's success was to have 100 take-homes by January. Last week, the service had 136 pickups from the Joplin area.

"I'd say the service is working very well," McCoy said.

Sgt. Ken Kennedy of the Joplin Police Department favors the idea of having a shuttle service.

"I think it's a good idea," he said. "Anytime there is a way to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the road makes it safer for the people, even just a fraction."

The shuttle service may be having a positive effect on the number of drunk drivers on the streets of Joplin. Kennedy said the number of DWI arrests was slightly lower in the month of November than other months in the past three years. He stresses this does not mean there are less drunk drivers on the road, and the shuttle service may not be the only factor contributing to this.

Many Missouri Southern students think the shuttle service is a good idea for several reasons. It takes away the question of who is going to be the designated driver, eliminates the problem of what to do if the D.D. decides to drink anyway, and saves the cost of receiving a DUI or DWI.

Steve McCluney, senior respiratory therapy major, is all for the shuttle service.

"I think it's a great idea, depending on whether or not it is utilized," he said. "I think it will not only make the roads safer, but save a number of people money in the long run from DUI and DWI charges. It's a great alternative to drinking and driving."

Lee Cox, Police Academy cadet, agrees.

"I believe it is working out fairly well," Cox said. "It helps

out a lot with not having so much traffic in and out of that area, and I think it will also help prevent accidents that may happen after the bars close downtown."

The shuttle service is

easy to use. Patrons

simply call the club of

their choice and

request a ride from the

service. The club will

take down the name,

phone number, and

address of the person,

then contact 4-Star

with the information.

The ride costs \$2 each

way, whether it is for

one person or a couple.

The shuttle will drop

off the customer at the

club of his or her

choice.

McCoy said he would

like to expand the service to clubs within walking distance

such as Club 609 and The Little Connor. McCoy also

expressed interest in having limousines available for a

higher charge. □

It's a great alternative to drinking and driving.

Steve McCluney
Senior respiratory therapy major

The miracle of Hanukkah



Dr. William Tannenbaum, assistant professor of history, shows a dreidel in the social sciences lounge. The dreidel is a traditional top-like toy which is used for a gambling game. The dreidel has four sides, each of them with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which stands for the phrase "a great thing happened there."

NOPPADOL PAOTHONG
The Chart

Holiday celebrates ancient war victory

By JEFF BILLINGTON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Book of Maccabees tells of a war waged more than 2,000 years ago and formed the foundation of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

Maccabees is an ancient Hebrew book that has been excluded from both the Hebrew Bible and the King James Version of the Bible, but is present in the Roman Catholic Bible.

Dr. William Tannenbaum, assistant professor of history at Missouri Southern, said Hanukkah is celebrated because it celebrates the first great religious victory of the Jewish people.

*Blessed art Thou,
O Lord, our God,
Ruler of the
universe, who has
sanctified us by Thy
commandments and
commanded us to
kindle the light of
Hanukkah.*

— The b'raha, or
blessing, recited
during the lighting of
the Menorah

into sight.

"The story has it that when they recaptured the temple and they were rededicating it, they had to get ritually pure oil," he said. "They couldn't use oil for the religious ceremonies that was contaminated by having been used for an idol or had been contaminated with some substance from a hog."

"And they found one sealed bottle of oil, enough for one day," Tannenbaum said.

"And as an act of faith they lighted this while someone else went to get ritually pure oil. And the miracle of miracles, the one-day supply of oil lit in an act of faith, faith that God would provide for as much as was needed. It burned for eight days until the extra supply of oil got to Jerusalem."

He explained this is what the lighting of the Menorah symbolizes, the miracle of the oil, but the main focus of the celebration is the victory of the Jewish people over the Syrian-Greeks.

"That, in fact, was one of the miracles, and secondarily the miracle of the oil," Tannenbaum said.

Dr. Paul Teverow, professor of history, said the story of the miracle oil may lack definite proof, but it still is an important part of Jewish tradition.

"You don't have to believe that (the miracle of the oil) to know some-

thing important happened at that time," he said. "I mean, we've got Jewish people who fought a successful war to preserve their religious identity, and that 2,000 years later there are still Jews around. It seems to me that's miraculous enough to celebrate whether or not you believe the eight days and the oil story."

Teverow said many non-Jewish people still confuse Hanukkah with Christmas.

"I guess the one misconception they might have is because Hanukkah comes at the same time as Christmas, and because it involves the exchanging of gifts, that the holidays are similar," he said.

Teverow said Hanukkah is not considered one of the most important Jewish holidays.

"Strictly speaking, in terms of ritual, it may not be that important, but I think it's very important in terms of Jewish survival and Jewish identity," he said.

"As I understand it, Christmas is central to what Christianity is all about, and Hanukkah is not as central to Judaism."

"On the other hand, it has become a tremendously important holiday because during the 20th century Jewish people have faced some terrible adversity, such as the Holocaust."

That takes on a significance for us, and also like Passover, Hanukkah is a holiday that celebrates more in the home than in the synagogue and so you associate it with family."

Tannenbaum said Hanukkah will start at sunset on Sunday and last until sunset on Dec. 21.

"What you do is the first night you light one candle, the second night two candles, three, four, and so by the eighth night you have eight candles plus what is considered the service candles or what is known in Hebrew, the Shamos," he said.

Teverow said outside of the lighting of the Menorah there is also festive food for the celebration.

"You eat food traditionally associated with Hanukkah, and, not surprisingly, those cooked in oil," he said.

"In America among American Jews, potato pancakes are the most common, but there are other foods cooked in oil, especially jelly doughnuts."

Tannenbaum said another important part of Hanukkah is a game called dreidel.

"It's a game kids and adults like to play," he said. "It's a fun game and it's got the Hebrew letters, which literally mean 'a great thing happened there.' Depending on what the letter is, you either put one into the pot, take half out from the pot, take the whole pot, or you do nothing."

Teverow said the game is typically played using pennies or dried lima beans as wagers.

Tannenbaum said certain things are typically given as gifts for the holiday.

"What's traditional to give on Hanukkah are small coins or little pieces of foil-covered candy in the shape of coins called gelt, a Yiddish word for coins or tokens," he said.

Tannenbaum said even Jews who are not heavily into the religion still partake in the holiday.

"For most Jews, even those that are non-synagogue attending, Hanukkah's sort of the holiday," he said.

"Because you can do as much or as little of it as you want, it can be as religious or non-religious a holiday as people choose, same as with Christmas."

Persons interested in finding out more about Jewish holidays and traditions may check out these Web sites: www.shamash.org/reform/uhac/holidays and www.shamash.org/lists/scj-faq/html. □

Potato Latkes (Pancakes)

6 medium potatoes
1 medium onion
3 eggs
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup all purpose flour
2 tps baking powder
Peanut oil for frying

Grate the potatoes and rinse well with cold water, squeezing out as much liquid as you can.

Add the grated onion to the potatoes along with the rest of the ingredients and stir vigorously with fork until blended.

Pour approximately 1/8 cup of peanut oil into a pre-heated (360-380 degrees) frying pad. Drop spoonful of potato mixture, making the latkes the size you prefer. Fry as regular pancakes, turning only once. They should be golden brown and a titch crisp around the edges. Each side will only take a minute or two. Serve hot topped with sour cream and/or applesauce.



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

The lighting of the Menorah takes place over eight days, each day another candle is lit. This year the first will be lit Sunday at sunset.



More than one million lights are used to create the Christmas display at the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix, a Vietnamese Catholic Order, in Carthage. The display stretches for a half-mile drive.
NOPPADOL PAOTHONG
The Chart

Lighting the spirit

Church spreads gospel through holiday display

By NOPPADOL PAOTHONG
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

As the sun sets and daylight has sunk below the horizon, more than one million tiny bulbs sparkle throughout the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix, a Vietnamese Catholic Order in Carthage.

The lights display Biblical scenes in electro-art sculptures. "The Christmas Light Display" began in 1984 to help people remember and focus on the meaning of Christmas and salvation.

The project, however, takes more than two months of preparing and costs more than \$10,000.

Ten full-time volunteers erect the displays.

"Everybody here has a different job," said Pius Nguyen, one of the volunteers.

Father Jimmy Bic, one of the light programmers, said he started working on the project as early as

September and continued through Thanksgiving. Bic programs and installs the memory into the eeprom chips that control the lights.

"My job is very complicated, but it is very easy compared with those guys who put the lights up," he said.

All the light bulbs have to be checked and replaced every day.

"Some of these light bulbs need to be changed, and more lights will be added to the display," said Justin Ky, a volunteer.

The electro-art sculptures can be seen from the car during the half-mile drive through the park. There is no admission fee.

Every Friday and Saturday there are as many as 1,000 cars passing through the light show, and even more just before Christmas.

As each visitor exits from the park, five simple words are passed from a donation booth to the car. "Thank you and Merry Christmas." □



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

Pius Nguyen, dressed in a lit robe, hands brochures about the display and the church to visitors of the park. The church has operated the event since 1984.



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG/The Chart

Max Bui, senior mass communications and display volunteer, greets visitors and accepts donations as they leave the "Christmas Light Display."



(ABOVE) Jimmy Bic programs the eeprom chips which control the lights in the display. (LEFT) Justin Ky covers the lights with plastic to protect them from the rain.
NOPPADOL PAOTHONG
The Chart